FBIS DAILY REPORT

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INA: PLO, EUROPEAN COUNCIL HOLD TALKS IN PARIS

JN191435 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Paris, 19 March--Palestinian negotiators representing the PLO held meetings, described as largely important, with representatives of the European council.

Informed Palestinian sources told the INA correspondent in Paris that the Palestinian negotiators, who were Shafiq al-Hut, PLO office director in Beirut; Dawud Barakat, PLO representative in Geneva; and Ibrahim as-Sus, PLO representative in Paris, had discussed with the European representatives in the first meeting, which is the first of its kind, the ways and means of the moves to be made by the EEC countries in order to epitomize their new stand toward the Palestine issue.

The sources also affirmed that other meetings will be held later to continue the discussion of issues pertaining to relations between Europe and the PLO. The sources also pointed out that a statement may be issued today or tomorrow by the European council on this meeting.

'ARAFAT ATTENDS PARTY HONORING PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER

NC200850 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar attended a banquet honoring the secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party, Comrade Alvaro Cunhal. The banquet, which was held yesterday, was hosted by the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party prior to Comrade Cunhal's departure for Aden. Comrade Cunhal was the guest of the PLO and the Lebanese Communist Party. In addition to the leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, Comrade Nicola Shawi and the party's secretary general, George Hawi, the banquet was also attended by prominent leaders of the Lebanese national party and the Palestinian revolution and included several cadre leaders. Also attending, were brother Abu Hakim, as well as ambassadors and diplomats of the two countries in Beirut.

Brother Abu 'Ammar welcomed Comrade Cunhal and thanked him for his visit which, he said, will bolster relations between the progressive people in the world. Brother Abu 'Ammar went on: The socialist forces led by the Soviet Union are extending their support to us. Together with these friendly forces, we will triumph over the imperialist-Zionist plot. Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the unity of struggle that binds the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples as well as the national movement and the Palestinian resistance.

In his welcoming address, Comrade Shawi said: We are very happy to find somebody who is extending help to the national movement and to the Palestinian resistance. This help is coming from the Soviet Union together with the international socialist, progressive and democratic forces. We ask these forces to extend more of the same to us in order to realize the national movement's plan, namely: To persevere for the sake of Lebanon's unity, independence and Arab character as well as its democratic development.

Comrade Cunhal stressed that the unity of struggle is not inherent in mere words but is a principled cause emanating from the struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

The Portuguese guest pointed out that the unity of the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian revolution should serve a good example to us in Portugal. He added: I assure you that the Portuguese communists will support you under all circumstances.

By extending our support, we are trying to contribute our modest share to the cause of the unity of struggle against imperialism. I wish to express again our profound conviction that the Camp David policies will collapse and that the Arab cause will triumph.

FATAH'S KHALID AL-HASAN VIEWS EUROPEAN, U.S. ATTITUDES

LD191407 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 13 Mar 80 pp 3, 5 LD

[Interview given to Sultan al-Bazi'j by Khalid al-Hasan, member of Fatah Central Committee--date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: We would like to begin by asking your opinion about the Palestinian position in the light of the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the enemy and in the light of the events in Lebanon.

Answer: Allow me to begin by talking about the international sphere because the Palestinian cause in this sphere is achieving very tangible progress. This progress has begun to include many areas which were closed to the Palestinian cause. In the Arab sphere, it is regrettable that the internal Arab situation, the existing division in the Arab homeland and the current Arab disagreements have in fact frozen the Palestinian movement. Very regrettably, this affects the progress of the Palestinian issue in the international sphere. The events in Lebanon are a good example of this.

I believe that it is completely clear to the Lebanese that the Palestinian aim in Lebanon is to see a united and stable Lebanon under the actual control of one legitimate authority. If the present situation in Lebanon and the steps recently initiated by President Sarkis to achieve national detente continue, we hope things will get better and good relations will be restored not only at the level of the state but also at the level of the Lebanese people as a whole. However, we must point to Israel's interferences in this matter and to Sa'd Haddad's forces and the role they might play to undermine these constructive steps. Nevertheless, I believe that all the Lebanese are aware of the situation and we hope that Sa'd Haddad will not be able or be given the opportunity to do anything to jeopardize the detente process initiated by President Sarkis.

As for the Palestinian position in the light of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, what is of interest to us in this matter at this stage are the repercussions of this agreement on matters relating to the Palestinian issue in the Camp David agreements in relation to the so-called administrative government or autonomy according to the Israeli concept. To date the Palestinian position in this connection has been sound, thank God, because the Palestinian people in the occupied territory are united and reject all that has emerged from the Camp David agreements and cling to their leadership represented by the PLO. Because the Egyptian or the Israeli sides have not been able to find a single Palestinian to go along with them in their plans, the natural outcome of these plans is failure.

Question: President Valery Giscard d'Estaing gave tacit recognition not only to the Palestinian cause but also to the PLO by the statement he issued the day before yesterday when he said that the PLO must be present in any peace negotiations. Do you believe that this could lead to a change in Europe's attitude in view of France's leading role in Europe?

Answer: I would like to point to a number of facts on this subject before answering the question. The first fact is that in relation to the Palestinian issue, France has been assuming a leading role in the European community since De Gaulle's time. The European Community has consented to France playing this leading role concerning Europe's position in dealing with the Arab position regarding the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue.

The second fact is that France has been anxious to keep in step with general European moves because the Common Market states do not have a common attitude toward the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue. It is known that Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium are the most hostile states to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause within the European Community. Germany has its own special circumstances. Basically, therefore, the moves have been French or Italian. The subject stopped at this point until things began to develop. Germany began to move and then Belgium moved and transcended the German position and even the French position before Giscard's recent visit. The Netherlands recently moved and its foreign minister addressed an official invitation to brother Abu al-Lutf (Faruq Qaddumi), in his capacity as head of the [PLO] Political Department, to visit the Netherlands. Thus, there has been a big change in the attitudes of these states which used to take a stand of opposition to the Palestinian people. Recently, a change was observed in Britain's position, especially after Mrs Thatcher came to power and appointed as foreign secretary a personality who is known to have a more positive attitude than others toward the Palestinian issue. This opened the way to a new European move through coordination within the European Common Market. Giscard gave expression to this new move by the stand which he adopted during his recent tour of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and Jordan and which he began with the subject of self-determination. It was observed that in less than 24 hours Britain and Germany supported this stand, which gradually began to progress from the subject of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Paris and the need for the Palestinian people's participation in any settlement, culminating in Riyadh, where Giscard frankly called for the PLO's participation. Naturally this did not reach the point of complete recognition of the subject [the PLO] but the political indications are that the European Common Market states will soon officially recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Within this concept, therefore, we can understand Giscard's recent visit.

Another point we must understand is that despite the fact that each European state has its own independent stand and the European Common Market as a group has its own stand independent of the states outside the Common Market, including the United States, we must realize that Europe and America belong to the same camp--the Western camp. Therefore, Europe, whether the Europe of the Common Market or that outside the market, together with the United States, Canada and Japan have a common international strategy led by the United States irrespective of the fact that each group and each state within this group is completely independent within this strategy. For this reason, we observe that in the wake of Giscard's statements, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hurd visited the Middle East to consult opinion on the formulation of a new resolution to be issued by the Security Council in relation to the Palestinian issue. This means that Britain will formulate the new Security Council resolution as it did in 1967. Therefore, we can say that while France is coordinating with Europe and Britain is coordinating with the United States, all these stands fall within the American strategy. As I understand it, the European attitude is aimed at finding the United States a way out of its dilemma and not at contradicting it or attempting to adopt a stand contradictory to the Americans. All these moves fall within the Western strategy which, during the present phase, is led by the United States.

Question: Do you not believe that the American leadership is under Zionist pressure and that this leadership is trying to avert this pressure? Assuming that this is the case--which is a mere possibility--it remains for the Arab role to weaken the Zionist influence in the United States. But this role is weak.

Answer: Undoubtedly the Arab role inside the United States is weak. Actually it is not weak but lagging. The American people are good and simple people. The problem with the American people is that they do not know the facts. For the past 30 years the Zionist information media have monopolized American public opinion and fed it with very erroneous information, so much so that numerous Americans now believe that Israel has been in existence since olden times and that the cause of the Middle East conflict is the Arabs' attempt to reduce the size of Israel. The Arabs are very much lagging in this respect and they can deal with the American people directly. Whoever understands the democratic mechanism of the American people realizes that direct dealing with the American people is a thousand times better than dealing with the centers of influence in the United States because these centers have to submit to American public opinion eventually.

There are so-called pressure groups in the United States as a result of the natural structure of American society, which is composed of various ethnic groups. There are the Irish, Polish, Italian and Greek pressure groups, the black pressure group and the Zionist-Jewish pressure group. There are also interest groups such as the iron and steel pressure group, the farmers pressure group and the universities pressure group. All these groups have a direct influence on American policy from above.

It is true that President Carter has made statements which no other previous president has made in relation to the Palestinian issue; we observe, however, that as soon as Carter issues a statement smacking of even a partial shift toward a real open understanding of the Palestinian issue--because real understanding is different from open understanding--that might have an effect on the American public opinion, we see him retracting his statement and adopting an opposite attitude in less than 24 hours. This has happened quite often. It happened with regard to the Soviet-American statement which was canceled after 24 hours; it happened with regard to the working paper which was approved toward the end of 1977 which, after a 7-hour meeting with Moshe Dayan, was substituted by another working paper which was rejected by the Arabs; it happened with regard to Andrew Young's stance and lately with regard to Carter's attitude in relation to the [UN Security Council] vote on the [Israeli] settlements despite the fact that public U.S. policy is against these settlements. He succumbed to Zionist pressure in less than 24 hours. A representative of a group of officials in the state of New York came to him and asked him to choose between their votes and the cancelation of his decision. Naturally, he chose their votes and canceled the decision. This gives us an indication that President Carter, in his present term of office, is of no help or use to us. He has created an atmosphere of confusion that has made even his European friends unable to fathom the American policy course.

Therefore, we cannot so far rely in any way on President Carter. An opinion is being expressed that if President Carter was re-elected, he would, in such an event, be able to act without being affected by Israeli pressure. I do not know if this is true or not.

FARUQ QADDUMI DENIES AFP REPORT ON ARAB AID TO WEST BANK, GAZA

NC191707 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
1515 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, the head of the PLO Political Department, has denied that he made a statement during his visit to Jordan on the aid given to the Palestinian people by the Arab states. AFP had quoted Abu al-Lutf as saying in Amman that Libya, Algeria and Kuwait have not been honoring their financial commitments toward the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL: EFFECTIVE CAMP DAVID RESULTS COULD BE BASIS OF ACTION

LD200858 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0723 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A senior Kuwaiti official today forecast the failure of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on granting autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza sector.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid said in a statement published by AS-SIYASAH that what had been reiterated about the presence of any kind of pressure by certain quarters so that the United States would recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization and conduct a dialog, confirm the anticipated failure of the autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel and the arrival at a dead end in the search for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

He added that if positive and effective results to the Egyptian-Israeli-American Camp David agreements emerge, it would then be possible for these results to be the beginning of international political action by the United States and the European countries.

He described Britain's attitude toward the Middle East crisis--which calls for mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel--and the refusal of the latter to recognize the PLO or the PLO to recognize Israel, as falling within the framework of diplomatic tactics and political and psychological maneuvers to which the Palestinian issue is being subjected.

On the other hand, the paper quoted Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee, as saying that the British attitude coincides with U.S. policy in the Middle East , which is based on the fact that Israel is the main prop for the continuation of Western influence in the Middle East.

OMAN

OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM 2-DAY VISIT TO YAR

LD191631 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, returned to the country this afternoon from San'a' after a 2-day official visit to the sisterly YAR, during which he conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to his brother, His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. His excellency also held discussions with Yemeni Government officials on relations between the two brotherly countries, the Arab situation and issues of common interest.

PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAN'A' FOR UNIFICATION TALKS

LD191639 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, candidate member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, left Aden this morning for San'a' on a visit which is to last several days at the invitation of his brother, Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Baraqi, chief of general staff of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland.

Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar declared that he would discuss with the brothers in the northern part ways of strengthening and deepening the bonds of brotherhood with the aim of fulfilling the Yemeni peoples hopes and aspirations for unity. In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he added that his visit was also being made within the framework of joint coordination and the exchange of opinions and views concerning the two peoples in the interests of unity. He said he was confident that, thanks to joint efforts on the part of the leaderships of the two parts and common goodwill, all the conspiracies and machinations would be overcome. Brother Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar pointed out that officials in the southern part of the homeland were working very earnestly and sincerely to find the best and soundest means of achieving Yemeni unity. He stressed: We shall not allow any interference in our internal affairs by any quarter. Imperialism and reaction must learn that the unification of the two parts is an inevitability which cannot be obstructed by any force, regardless of its strength. Concluding his statement, the brother defense minister hailed all the sincere efforts by the brothers in the northern part of the homeland to bring about the unification of the Yemeni land and people He also wished them all success.

DJIBOUTI PRIME MINISTER BARKAT ENDS VISIT

LD181919 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Gourad Hamadou Barkat, the Djibouti prime minister, and his delegation left Aden international airport this morning for home after ending a visit to the PDRY that lasted several days. Leading those seeing him off was brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Others seeing him off included the brother ministers and senior government officials, as well as several members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Democratic Yemen.

Before leaving, brother Gourad Hamadou Barkat told local newsmen that he was satisfied with the results of his visit and his talks with officials in our country. He said his visit would open new horizons in the field of relations between the two fraternal countries and serve to strengthen these relations for the good and interests of the two peoples. He stressed that his visit had provided him with a good opportunity to learn about the pioneering experiment of Democratic Yemen for economic and social progress. In his press statement the Djibouti prime minister hailed the achievements made in the PDRY.

Referring to his country's relations with its neighbors, he said that his country had called on many occasions for making the region a zone of peace and freedom, the maintenance of which should be shouldered by the countries in the region. These countries could ward off threats to insure that peace prevailed in the region to enable its peoples to engage in constructive development projects, thus to assure the future progress of their children.

The Djibouti prime minister stressed that his country's relations with socialist Ethiopia and Somalia were good. Gourad Hamadou Barkat said that his country had declared its support for Arab solidarity, being committed to the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad and Tunis summits. It was also continuing its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to gain their legitimate rights and establish their own independent Palestinian state on their own territory.

QATAR

SUDANESE PRESIDENT, DELEGATION PAY VISIT 19 MAR

JN190839 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 19 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Doha this morning on a 2-day visit to Qatar, as part of his tour of Arab Gulf countries. The Sudanese president was welcomed by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani and senior Qatari officials.

During the visit, the Sudanese president will hold talks with the amir of Qatar on the current Arab and international situations, developments in the Middle East issue and ways of strengthening bilateral relations in all fields.

Report on Talks

JN191047 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1025 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Doha, 19 March--The first round of official talks between the Qatari side under Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and the Sudanese side under President Ja'far Numayri began in Doha this morning.

On the Qatari side, the talks were attended by Qatari Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Public Security Director Shaykh Hamad ibn Jasim Al Thani, Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari and Qatari ambassador to Sudan Muhammad ibn Rashid Khalifah.

On the Sudanese side, the talks were attended by the members of the official delegation accompanying President Numayri.

An official source stated that the first round of Qatari-Sudanese talks dealt with the current Arab and international situations, developments in the Middle East issue in light of the French president's recent statements and the situation in the Gulf area and the Horn of Africa. The source added that the talks also dealt with ways of strengthening joint Arab cooperation, Arab-African cooperation and with issues of mutual interest. The source said that the two sides also reviewed fraternal bilateral relations and expansion of cooperation in all fields. The source concluded by saying that viewpoints were identical on all issues discussed.

Telephone Call to Iraq

JN191447 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 19 March--His Excellency President Ja'far Numayri has stressed his welcome of the national declaration recently proposed by Iraq.

In a telephone call he made to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from Doha today, President Numayri expressed his thanks for the Iraqi president's initiative of sending an envoy to Khartoum to brief the Sudanese Government on the contents of the national declaration.

Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman, minister of state and press adviser to the president, who is accompanying President Numayri on his current visit of Qatar, told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY that the Sudanese president had had two other telephone conversations, one with His Highness Saykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of the State of Kuwait, and the other with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain.

Comment on Talks

JN192131 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2055 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 19 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has announced that his talks with Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani centered on the issues that concern the Arab nation and, primarily, this nation's political, economic, cultural and social issues.

In an interview with the Qatari television tonight, President Numayri said that the talks dealt with the situation of the Arab region in particular and that of the world in gene al, in addition to relations between the two countries.

President Numayri stressed that his viewpoints were identical to those of the Qatari amir regarding the various issues that were discussed. He said: Our aims and actions as well as our followup of these actions are proceeding on the correct path, which leads to the attainment of the great pan-Arab objective of liberating the Arab territories from world Zionism.

Resume Talks

JN200935 Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 20 Mar--A second round of official talks was held today at the Doha palace between Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and his brother Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

The talks were attended on the Qatari side by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari; and Qatari ambassador to Sudan Muhammad Rashid Khalifah.

The talks were attended on the Sudanese side by the members of the official delegation accompanying President Numayri.

A short while later, the talks turned to a closed meeting, which was confined to His Highness the Amir and his great guest.

QNA has learned that during this meeting, a discussion was concluded on several issues reviewed by the two leaders in the first round of talks which was held yesterday and centered on the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, bilateral relations and expanding these relations in the interest and benefit of the fraternal peoples.

QNA has also learned that during these talks, a sincere fraternal spirit of joint aspirations permeated the atmosphere, which reflects the depth of the strong fraternal ties linking his higness the amir and his great guest and the two fraternal peoples, relations which will be strengthened even more by such meetings.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTER DENIES TASS REPORT ON DISTURBANCES

JN191432 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 19 March--Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani today denied reports which were circulated yesterday by the official Soviet news agency TASS on the occurrence of disturbances in some Saudi regions. The minister described such allegations as sheer nonsense and unfounded.

The Saudi information minister added that these lies were not new to the communist mass media organs, which are known to be hostile to Islam and always attempting to arouse the Muslims' apprehensions and cast doubt on the deeply-rooted Islamic edifice in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi information minister affirmed in a statement to GNA that the stability enjoyed by Saudi Arabia stems from its implementation of the eternal Islamic cannon law and the Saudi leaders' concern with the people's welfare and prosperi[illegible]

MINISTER RESIGNS, APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF MECCA

LD191210 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1122 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Five royal orders have been issued. The first and second of these orders accept the resignation of His Royal Highness Price Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of municipal and rural affairs, from his post and concerns his appointment as governor of blessed Mecca with the rank of minister. The other three orders concern the appointment of his Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as governor of Al-Qasim region with the rank of ministers, the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as governor of Tabuk region with the rank of minister, and the appointment of His Royal Highness Muqrin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as governor of Ha'il region with the rank of minister.

NEW PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX TO OPEN IN AUGUST

LD200950 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Jiddah--The pumping of crude oil from the coastal pumping station of Yanbu' will start next August. This was stated by Husayn Lanjawi, director general of the oil pipeline project from the east to the west [of the country], in a statement to the magazine IQRA which was published today. He said that the pumping station will include a fuel refinery for local consumption and another for export, with an output of 250 [as received] barrels per day. Its production of gasoline, naphthalene, kerosene, diesel fuel and heavy oil will be exported to both North America and Europe. There will also be a petrochemical complex, with an annual output of 1 million rotl [1 rotl - 462 gallons].

Engineer Lanjawi pointed out that the Saudi crude oil pipeline, which runs from Al-Aghwar oilfield in the eastern district to the town of Yanbu' on the Red Sea coast, is 1,200 km long and is regarded as the longest pipeline in the world. He explained that it will save oil tankers a distance of 3,600 km. He pointed out that the line ends at the Yanbu' pumping station, where the docks can accomodate huge oil tankers with up to 500,000 ton capacities.

UAE

SUDANESE PRESIDENT PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT 17-19 MAR

Arrival Reported

JN171534 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an official 3-day visit to the UAE. UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan was present at the airport to welcome President Numayri on his arrival from Riyadh. The Sudanese president was also welcomed by Prime Minister Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE Heir Apparent and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, armed forces commander in chief.

First Round of Talks

JN172043 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 March--The first round of talks between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri ended here this evening. The talks had started earlier this evening. President Numayri arrived in Abu Dhabi today within the context of his tour of the area.

Resume Talks

JN180800 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 March--Official talks between UAE President His Highness Saykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri resumed in Abu Dhabi this morning, in the presence of two delegations of senior officials from the two countries. It has been learned that the discussions focused on ways to promote bilateral relations in all fields. Current Arab, Islamic and international issues, particularly the Middle East crisis, were also reviewed.

The Sudanese president arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday on an official 2-day visit to the UAE.

Comment on Talks

JN181222 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1150 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 March--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah has said that during their talks yesterday and today, UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri assessed the Arab and international situations and various issues of common interes.

In a statement following the conclusion of the talks between His Highness Shaykh Zayid and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri at noon today, Rashid 'Abdallah said: The two presidents praised the European stand, particularly in the wake of French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the area, on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that the discussions between the two presidents dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation and with ways of promoting them in various fields. The Sudanese president briefed His Highness Shaykh Zayid on the situation and developments in Sudan.

Rashid 'Abdallah pointed out that the talks also dealt with the situation in the Gulf area. It was agreed to keep the area free of international conflict. Viewpoints were in agreement on the various issues raised.

The two presidents agreed to promote Arab-African cooperation in the interests of the Arab and African countries and in order to unify the Arab ranks, support the Palestinian cause and regain the occupied Arab territories.

Further Talks

JN181911 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 March--A meeting was held here this evening between His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, and Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, Sudanese vice president and foreign minister, who is accompanying Sudanese President Numayri on his visit to the UAE.

It was announced in Abu Dhabi that the two sides studied ways to consolidate their two countries' relations in various fields. Also during the meeting, which was attended by UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the two sides discussed the Arab situation and ways of bolstering Arab solidarity in the current stage of the Arab nation.

Leaves for Qatar

JN190747 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 19 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Abu Dhabi for Doha this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to the UAE. The Sudanese president was seen off by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid and senior government and state officials.

YAR

OMANI OFFICIAL MEETS WITH PRESIDENT 19 MAR

JN191251 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] In his office in the general command at 1000 today, brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah. During the meeting, 'Abdallah conveyed an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman to the brother president dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and with the current Arab situation. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Omani ambassador in San'a'.

Statement, Departure

JN191252 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah left San'a' at noon today following a visit to the YAR that [words indistinct].

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, 'Abdallah said that during the visit, he held talks with Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, and with officials from the ministry, dealing with the current Arab situation. He said that the discussions were very successful.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER RETURNS FROM PDRY 19 MAR

JN191313 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 19 March--Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i', Consultative Council member and the YAR president's adviser, arrived here from Aden today following a visit to the PDRY, during which he conveyed a message from YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council.

Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i described his talks with the PDRY officials as successful. In a statement he made upon his return, Ad-Daf'i said that the YAR and PDRY unity committees will continue their work to complete their duties and to achieve the Yemeni people's noble aspiration, unity.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES 19 MAR

JN191344 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 19 March--PDRY Defense Minister Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir arrived here today at the head of a military delegation on a visit to the YAR. It was stated in San'a' that this visit comes within the framework of coordination and consultation between the commanders in chief of the armed forces in both parts of Yemen in order to achieve the Yemeni people's noblest aspiration: unity.

Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir said upon his arrival that during his visit, he will attend the graduation of a new group of students of the military college here. The PDRY defense minister described the graduating group as a new driving force in the ranks of the Yemeni armed forces and in the armed forces in both parts of Yemen.

Meets President

JN191808 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the presidential palace this evening brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir, defense minister of the southern part of the homeland. The PDRY official conveyed a verbal message to brother President Salih from his brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the leader of the southern part of the homeland.

The meeting was attended by Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, chief of the army staff, and Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs.

AS-SADAT LAUDS EGYPTIAN PEOPLE ON DOCTORS DAY

NC181314 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1102 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat at a ceremony held at the Medical House on 18 March on the occasion of Egyptian doctors' day--live]

[Text] In the name of God: Brothers, sisters, sons and daughters the doctors of Egypt: We are meeting this year, as we met last year, on the day of the doctor in acknowledgment and appreciation of the doctors' services. I thank God Almighty that in the past year, since we met, an achievement greater than we expected or took into consideration has been realized.

The treaty was signed on 26 March last year after we had celebrated doctors' day for the first time. Less than 9 months after the treaty was signed, most of Sinai-Al-'Arish-Ra's-Muhammad line, which constitutes 80 percent of the area of Sinai, was restored, may God be thanked. The petroleum and the passes were also restored to us. And their achievement, no less important than the restoration of land and revenues, was also realized in the same 9-month period. What happened is that the brother Arabs met at night in Baghdad and then in Tunis to plot in an attempt to suffocate the people of Egypt. The great achievement was that we managed in last year's budget and in the new budget, which started in January 1980, to dispense completely with all Arab aid. [applause] It is my judgment that this is one of the most splendid achievements because all of us, the sons of Egypt--doctors, lawyers, merchants, social workers and engineers, all sectors of the people and the workers--contributed to this achievement. You and I have just heard that about 12,000 doctors are working abroad. A very large number of them are working in Arab countries in all loyalty, sincerity, efficiency and impartiality. We are proud that we come from Egypt which remains the greatest, firmest and most immortal and proud.

Despite the Arabs' past and present plots, our sons the doctors, teachers, engineers, workers and all sectors continue to carry out their duty with all Egypt's eminence, as I said. We are happy with this and we will never harbor hatred because hatred feeds on itself. We will not harbor hatred and we thank God for helping us teach them [the Arabs] an unforgettable lesson. This lesson is that we no longer need, thanks to God, the aid of any of them. [applause] Our budget and revenues no longer depend on them at all. We thank God for helping us manage this. As I have told you, all the sons of Egypt working abroad and at home have contributed to this achievement. You who are working at home are raising the flag of Egypt and elevating its eminence.

Those pioneers in the world of medicine whom we honored today are a symbol of Egypt's eminence. With such pioneers in every branch of knowledge, in engineering, law and in every activity, Egypt is a giant and eminent. Egypt has history, firmness, price and prestige in all its history, sons and daughters who are building its eminence throughout the generations.

Thank God all these achievements have been attained. As I have told you these achievements are no less than the liberation of the land because they record forever Egypt's leadership and pioneering originality, not by slogans but by eminent doctors, men of law, engineers and authorities in all branches of knowledge, science and progress. These lofty pioneers put Egypt on record before the entire world, not the Arab world alone, but the entire world. Egypt's elite are recording forever Egypt's leadership and pioneers.

Thus every meeting with our sons of Egypt in all fields of professions and arts and knowledge is a victory for Egypt and its leadership, not only in the Arab world, but also in the Islamic world to the same degree or more. We and all Muslims have turned to our Qiblah in the Ka'bah, Mecca. Al-Azhar--that is, Cairo and Egypt--was and still is the second Qiblah.

For this reason let us put things straight. As you have heard me say, after next summer, God willing, we will be in a position to announce the establishment of the Islamic-Arab league. We recall with gratitude the first to advocate this league here on Egypt's soil--Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani. In September God willing, we will hold a meeting to establish this league for Islam and Muslims and for the Arabs Muslims, Christians and Jews as God Almighty's book ordered us.

Let us return to originality and rise above shallowness and ignorance. Thank God we have managed to skip over all grudges, bitterness and plotting. We will not have any spite because spite does not build, but destroys.

We tell them with all love: Your treasuries have become full as a result of the blood we shed on the land of Sinai. After being $3, the price of a barrel of oil has increased to $40 today. Nevertheless, we will not harbor any hate. But we want to tell them that all the gold of the world cannot buy our principles, our values and the leadership of Egypt. It will never be able to compensate the Arab world or the Islamic world for the leadership of Egypt. [applause]

With all love we tell them that we shall continue the construction process while they are destroying. With all love we tell them that Egypt will remain a society of security, safety, democracy and the dignity of man at a time when it is difficult to find one country in the Arab world that respects the dignity of man. Egypt will remain the country of safety, security, democracy, building, freedom and the dignity of man.

Last year was the year we accomplished the liberation of our land. The greatest accomplishment would be for our capabilities to be liberated so that we would not need one of those ignorant dwarfs. This year we are facing two very important matters: The first is to consolidate democracy and have a greater measure of security and safety; a greater measure of human rights; a greater measure of sound, honorable activity designed to enhance the image of Egypt and Egypt alone. In this matter we must have controls for democracy. It is not sensible at all that democracy should provide the means for some convulsives to undermine democracy. The security, safety, democracy and elevation of man's dignity which has been achieved today has never been achieved in any age in the past.

Egypt has been moaning under foreign rule for thousands of years--2,000 years before the 23 July revolution. Egypt was moaning even under the so-called independence era, which was an extension of the era of foreign domination. This era begin after the 28 February 1922 statement and ended with the 23 July 1952 revolution. They falsely called it the independence era. We all know that until the 23 July revolution, Egypt had no freedom, will or independence. These were usurped by British colonialism, the king, the parties and the elite pashas and rulers. Egypt never genuinely experienced independence until 23 July 1952.

This year we must further consolidate democracy, God willing. As I have said, one day the convulsives must know that democracy has claws which can be a hundred times more vicious than the claws of dictatorship. Through democracy we defend the dignity of man; we defend security, safety and prosperity for every citizen. Whoever undermines this will not be left free to spread corruption under the name of democracy.

The feeble voices, which never dared to make themselves heard in the past, are now trying to exploit the atmosphere of democracy, security and safety. No, this year, God willing, there will be more democracy, security and safety as we move forward in our construction march.

I was most happy to meet with you and to hear with the people about the problems mentioned by your dean. These problems are, above all, to do with the building of Egypt and the building of man and the promotion of security for the people of Egypt. When he calls for medical security, the same as social security which we have already applied--God willing, I hope that this year we will celebrate the application of social security to every Egyptian from the farthest point in the north to the farthest point in the south and from the farthest point in the east to the farthest point in the west, in the villages, in the deserts, in the oases and in the cities. This year, God willing, we will celebrate the fact that every man and every woman in Egypt will be entitled to disability, illness, and old-age pension. When your dean raised the question of medical security, he was demonstrating maximum public consciousness and performance by the medical family in its country Egypt and its bigger family, that is, Egypt.

He has asked me to sponsor this [medical security]. Never, I will return it to you. He must sponsor a plan for the application of medical security not within 10 years, as he said, but in less time. [applause] I will support him as I have supported social security for every male and female in Egypt. For the first time, some groups are getting pensions that nobody ever imagined they would get, groups that the rulers of old never thought about, such as newspaper vendors, fishermen, bakers, and all the groups that represent the toiling foundation. They now all come under the umbrella of social security, the completion of which we will celebrate this year, God willing; and God willing, one year soon we will, through your efforts, celebrate medical security for the entire Egyptian family, God willing. [applause]

These are the problems of construction, leadership, and glory. These are the problems of building Egypt with complete love, loyalty, security and safety for everyone living in Egypt.

As I have told you, the first accomplishment this year will be democracy. Construction will continue. You recall that in the referendum the people approved the introduction of amendments to the constitution to discard forever the one-party system and to enact a law making the press the fourth estate.

Here we admit a fact and cannot but admit it: Certainly and unquestionably, the press shapes the conscience of citizens every morning. It is an authority. The government, God willing, will submit [a report] to the People's Assembly to make constitutional amendments regarding the press in order to consolidate democracy.

As for the second aim this year, it is to eliminate the problems the people are suffering, especially the problem of prices. This will be followed by the issuance of the tax law. You have heard me talk of the tax law. There must be tax justice and social justice in the sense that we want to see an increase in everyone's income. However, he must do his duty toward the state. We want everyone to toil, build himself and build for his duty toward the state. We want everyone to toil, build himself and build for his sons and assert himself, but he must do his duty to the state. All manifestations of extravagance and waste must end. Everything a citizen earns is a right, which we bless and pray to God to bless. But he must also fulfill the rights of the state with the spirit of a family.

I do not want this [to be implemented], as your dean has said, by soldiers and thieves. I agree with him completely. We have here with us Dr 'Ali Lutfi, or he is listening to me now. What the dean proposed concerning your taxes--because I am telling you that the two basic problems this year are democracy and the prices that cause suffering. [sentence as heard] To achieve this there must be total tax fairness; that is, every citizen must bear the homeland's taxes with justice and do his duty toward the state fairly. It is unreasonable to have those with enormous incomes evade taxes while those with small incomes are forced to pay taxes since the source of the income for the two suffering classes of small employees and the public sector workers is the government. [applause] Tax justice is inevitable, and before the end of the next People's Assembly session, that is before July this year, God willing, this will be achieved. Taxes are basic.

At the same time I am preparing the National Democratic Party [NDP] to embark on solving the price problem with total determination and strength. I promise you, God willing, that before the end of this year, and I promise our people and toiling class that before the end of this year the government will be in full control of prices through the preparations underway. The NDP will launch a huge movement among the masses to have the entire people participate in bringing prices under control. [applause]

These are our problems that we must discuss: prices and the masses' suffering. This year we must also--as you have given this splendid example when your dean spoke of doctors' contribution to making medicine--I tell you that the NDP, God willing, will establish a national bank for development.

Your mere contemplation of the idea that doctors ought to work privately in the medicine industry is the peak of understanding, awareness and construction. Therefore, I tell you that the state will back you in this. Moreover, the national bank for development will provide loans and facilities to all doctors wishing to work in this industry. This, and not slogans and the discussion of normalization, is the sound way for construction.

Some organizations and people have been wasting the people's time in discussing the normalization. What is wrong with normalization? The normalization of relations is nothing new. We and Israel have commitments in the peace treaty regarding this issue. Israel has carried out its commitment and handed over 80 percent of Sinai with all the resources therein. We, too, are discharging our responsibilities and commitments. I said that we will take two steps for each step that Israel takes. Why? It is because we have no complexes. We do not attach any importance to marginal matters. Regarding the raising of the Israeli flag, we raised the Palestinian flag at Mena House in 1977. If the Palestinians had come to the Cairo conference, held at Mena House in November 1977, they would have compelled the entire world--and firstly Israel--to recognize them officially, because no force in the world would have helped Israel to disregard the existence of the organization [the PLO] as a state and a flag, as we had planned at the Mena House conference. Israel could never have escaped this. However, it appears that we have some who lament the fate of Palestine more than the Palestinians themselves. We in Egypt shoulder the responsibility of exploration and leadership and the responsibility of using commonsense and exercising our will. We shoulder the responsibility of leadership. It is senseless to put the fate of the Arab nation and Egypt's destiny in frivolous hands such as those of Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, who is striking at his helpless people with artillery and tanks. In the past 2 days tanks and artillery have been deployed against Aleppo, not against Israel, but against the Syrian people in Aleppo.

I cannot put the destiny of the Arab nation in the hands of a mad boy like Al-Qadhdhafi or in the hands of rulers such as those of Saudi Arabia. Spite is eating the hearts of the Saudi rulers. I cannot put the fate of the Arab nation in the hands of a handful of lackeys, such as those of the PDRY. Aren't these the rulers of the Arab nation who are weeping over Palestine and the normalization [of relations]?

These rulers tried to coin the term normalization, which was first coined by them in the hope that they could stop the wheel of history; that is, freeze the normalization. No, we will not freeze anything. Israel has commitments that it has fulfilled and we will fulfill ours.

Today, before I came here, two members of the Doctors' Association had been invited to attend a conference in Israel. They had contacted the presidency for permission and the matter was immediately referred to me. I agreed. We do not have any complexes. At the last moment the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, contacted me. He said that representatives from South Africa will be attending the conference. We cancelled the permission because we have African commitments and because we also have Islamic and Arab commitments. On this basis, we will not participate in any meeting in which the apartheid state participates. We do not have any complexes whatsoever concerning anything other than this. We are absolutely not ready to hand over our fate to a gang of small ones in the Arab nation to formulate the fate of the Arab nation and the fate of Egypt. No, we will not permit this. God willing, during our talks on autonomy for the Palestinians, scheduled to end on 26 May, Israel must prove its intentions before the world regarding the second Camp David agreement. As prime minister and foreign minister, Dr Mustafa Khalil said and as I have said many times, we have a firm and clear stand: At the autonomy talks, we will end the Israeli occupation with the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza; but we did not, and we will not, speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

They are ignorantly and falsely saying that Egypt has taken upon itself the responsibility of speaking for the Palestinians on the beginning of the sound road by ending the Israeli occupation.

It is not known so far when it will end. Not so. Concerning this, we have fixed a 5-year transition period. There will be no governing Israeli occupation after 5 years; never. But there will be Palestinian self-rule that will govern and establish its police force as stipulated in the Camp David accord, and the Israeli military government and the Israeli civil rule will be eliminated.

What are we doing? We are only removing the sufferings of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank by ending the occupation. After a 5-year transition period, the Palestinians will sit down to decide their fate.

Israel tried to speak about water resources with us and we told it: Sorry, we have absolutely nothing to do with the land of Palestine. For all of us to be clear with ourselves, before the world and before the league of the ignorant Arabs and the Palestinians, we say concerning our responsibility: We do not speak on behalf of the Palestinians and we will not decide the fate of the Palestinians--never, never. We are only ending the Israeli occupation which had no end. No one knew when it would end until after I embarked on my initiative, when matters became clear.

We will end Israeli military rule and then Palestinian autonomy will be established. After that the Palestinians themselves will determine their future. As for water resources, open or closed borders with Israel, it is their [the Palestinians] own problem. Regarding new or old settlements, it is also their own problem. However, as for settlements, let my words be clear because this is Egypt's stand: We denounce the settlements both old and new. We announced our stand. [applause] They are an illegal act, both the settlements that have been established and those Israel is thinking of establishing. We totally denounced this. This stand of ours is written down in Camp David and in Israel, and the world is listening to me now. This is not a new stand.

Regarding Israel's commitment toward the Egyptian treaty, you have heard me say that Israel has fulfilled its commitments with all honor and we also will fulfill our commitments with all honesty. Thus, we will not waste our time over the term normalization because the gang of Arab ignorants wanted us to freeze our relations with Israel and normalization until it evacuates Palestine. What is this clownish thinking? For we are solving the problem. When President Giscard d'Estaing visited them, these Arabs made a furor of joy over his statements. If he wants to implement his statements, he can only do so through the course Egypt has followed. Anything they made jubilant shouts about is inapplicable except through Egypt's method. Those who read and analyze are aware of this. The pretext, Palestine soil and flag. [sentence as heard] We are working for Palestine's land and flag with honor and honesty and not by slogans, grudge and ignorance. We will continue on this path because this is Egypt's destiny.

When the doctors' dean stands up to speak about health insurance, we say yes. We also say yes to the doctors working in the medicine industry. The state supports this. This means building up Egypt. This is real political work. Political work does not mean charlatry, articles and slogans, as it used to be in the past. By your action, you are setting an example for the other trade unionist organizations. We have a wrong concept in the trade unionist organizations. The trade unionist organizations were formed during the [British] occupation. The Lawyers Association, which is undoubtedly the oldest trade union, remained a fortress of steadfastness and freedom throughout the period of occupation. The mistake in the Lawyers Association or other trade unions is that the people do not understand that we are now living in the era of independence and not of occupation or foreign domination. In the era of occupation and foreign domination, we all supported the Lawyers Association when it rose to challenge the imperialists by its decision. We supported the association because it defied the king, the imperialists and the corrupt party pashas. We always supported it when it celebrated the anniversary of one of its pioneers or of its struggle. The Lawyers Association once defied An-Nahhas [a prime minister under the monarchy]. Makram nominated himself to the post of president of the lawyers after having left the Wafd Party. We lived these battles together with the Lawyers Association.

Work in the era of independence must not be a continuation of what it used to be under the era of occupation. For example, now they sit at the Lawyers Association and waste their time speaking about normalization. Whom are they challenging and against whom do they want to adopt decisions?

You are responsible for participating in the building, performance and work, because the English, the kings and the pashas are no longer here. We now have the people's authority. The ruling NDP is not a party of the elite; never. It is a popular-based party of 50 percent [of the people] and not a party of the elite, like the pashas of the old days.

Whom are you defying? You or any group, why waste the country's time? A seminar on exports, on ethics or on democracy are all a waste of time. It is useless. As a state, we must be clear. Many elements want to strike at stability in Egypt and portray us to the world as an unstable country without democracy or freedom. What is really funny is that within the resolutions adopted by certain organizations it is said that freedom, democracy, security and safety are lacking in Egypt and that the code of ethics is meant to muzzle the opposition.

Why muzzle the opposition? You all know that in order to have opposition in Egypt, the NDP representatives and I signed for its establishment. Why? Because there must be another opinion. We will not decide on one thing and do the opposite. We do what we say that we do. We do not want God Almighty's curse to fall on us. Ye who believe: Why say ye that which ye do not? Grievously odious is it in the sight of God. That ye say that which ye do not. [Koranic verse]

No, we say what we do and do what we say. However, the concepts of a democratic course must inevitably change. Why? The course still suffers from the old inertia--trade unions oppose the government. In the old days, they used to call it the authority. Who are you opposed to now? Are you opposed to 99.9 percent of the people, which is the result of any referendum we hold? Should the 5,000 people in Egypt who voted against the peace treaty be against 11 million? Does opposition mean distorting Egypt's image through lies written here or there to be broadcast abroad?

When we say shame on you, they say the ethics code is against freedom and democracy. When we tell our sons to beware of atheism, agentry, destructive principles and religious values, these people say the code of ethics is aimed at striking at democracy. A People's Assembly committee is studying the code of ethics and will submit it to the People's Assembly.

You have seen that many organizations have taken action, adopted resolutions, etc, and it was clear that all of this was built on sand because the Political Bureau met only recently to discuss the principles of the code of ethics. When the Political Bureau approved these principles, together with other affairs related to the building of Egypt in all spheres--primarily the problems of democracy and prices--the aim was a decisive stroke.

As I promised you and our people, before the end of this year, God willing, we will reach a solution. The NDP adopted resolutions concerning these questions, including the principles of the code of ethics. It took the party a week to draft these principles. Some 20 days before this, certain people were feverish. They wanted to comment on the code before it was issued. The code will only be broadcast today [as heard] after being submitted to the People's Assembly committee. It will be announced, and after being studied by the People's Assembly committee, it will be debated by the People's Assembly.

I am very happy because, like the Engineers Union, they did not waste their time either. At one time the chairman of the Engineers Union tried to follow the old deficient way, because he wanted to become a minister. He tried to prove that he could object and that he was a man of willpower. This was before the battle. I was wounded more than the people. The left behaved with the utmost vileness and stupidity. Why? Because there was no battle. They talked about defeatism, liquidations and other such senseless things. They talked while I was preparing for the battle. The chairman of the Engineers Union then tried to show that he could do what he wanted in the union, just as in the past when we used to do such things during the occupation, the era of the king and the party pashas. But this is all over. We live today in the era of independence and construction. The students of the engineering college went on strike. You all know that I closed the detention camps forever in May 1971, and they will not be reopened. So far 9 years have passed since the decision, and the detention camps have not been reopened. They will not be reopened, God willing. The NDP Political Bureau has adopted a decision in this regard. It will be announced at a future date, God willing. The decision is designed to consolidate all these matters. They have not been reopened and will not be reopened.

As with the old method, he thought that he could demolish the world with the backing of the union. He brought in the mothers of the students whom the prosecution had arrested. He lined them up at the doors of the union headquarters on Masr Wa as-Sudan Street. You all know that this is a busy street--sorry, it is Ramsis Street. The mothers stood there shouting. The foreign correspondents were called in and told to write about this freedom and democracy and the detainees. No one was detained after 1971, and if there is proof of this, I would like to know. I want anyone to come to me and say that a person was detained after May 1971 or that there was a detainee. Never. He brought in the mothers to shout, and the foreign correspondents wrote that Egypt is in a terrible state. They used outmoded methods to attack the regime and to undermine the honestry of people showing vileness and a complete lack of ethics in democratic exercise. What a shame? We have an attorney general, a People's Assembly, the socialist prosecuter, and all the means through which a person can express his objection and protest.

I was very happy to know that the Engineers Union now has a bank, an insurance company, a housing company, and a food security company. Within a few years the pension of an engineer will be higher than his salary. This is sound union work. At the same time, if the union members have anything to say with regard to the situation, they sit down and discuss it in the sound method of a free and independent state--and not a state ruled by a king and imperialism, to which we want to show our chivalry. There is democracy. There is no chivalry in democracy because everyone today can say what he wants to. There is no chivalry in it at all. This is union work.

For your information, there is nothing called professional unions [niqabat mihaniyah] in the whole world. There are scientific associations, but no professional unions. Nevertheless, we have no objection to this, provided the primary aim is the welfare of those who belong to them.

Hamdi complained today about the doctor's pension. I tell you that within 3, 4 or maximum 5 years, the pension of the engineer will be higher than his salary. This is because with profits from the bank, the insurance company, and the food security company --which involves cultivating and farming 20,000 feddans from which they and their families can eat and drink--the engineer gets double the salary he earns, and if he dies, his children will receive it. It was said here that 15 pounds was the highest you have reached.

What is required is work. What you say is sound. It is sound that you yourselves should establish the medicine company. You must have decisive influence on the question of health insurance and you must have an interest in and benefit from this insurance. In other words, you must benefit from it because you will be easing the people's burdens; however, you must be rewarded regularly and openly--not secretly--for this. This is the sound way to build Egypt. In our present era of independence, democracy, security and safety, I want Egypt to be built by our own full volition, awareness and freedom, because God alone is our guardian. I am sorry if I have taken a long time talking to you, but one thing leads to another.

On the question of taxes, I hope that Hamdi and a group of you will sit with the finance minister to reach solutions that will satisfy you and serve as a basis for all our professional brothers. [applause] We will support and back you in everything that will benefit you and your generations and help you in building yourselves and your future and that of your sons and grandsons.

There is no objection at all to your expressing your opinion as citizens on anything you want. There is no objection to your sitting down and expressing your opinion on any problem in this homeland, but follow the method of Egypt and its family and not the method of complexes or of the convulsives, the defeatists or those who want to wage imaginary battles and make themselves imaginary heroes.

Everyone knows that he can sit down and say whatever he wants now. Nothing will happen to him and nobody will be sent to the detention camps. Nobody can be arrested without an order from the office of the district attorney. There is nothing new in this. What should be new now is that we should stand up and follow the suit of Europe and the United States and build ourselves. Europe and the United States built themselves, establishing solid and firm states.

I thank God that the structure of Egypt and of the institutions is solid. Some are trying to destroy these institutions, but we will deter them through democracy and not through measures; never, we will completely deter them. Respect for institutions is a sacred thing. Respect for the constitution, which stipulates rights and duties, is also sacred. Apart from this, we can do whatever we want within the limits of the Egyptian family. We must not provide these people with an opportunity to destroy Egypt's image abroad and say that it is an unstable state. Egypt is a stable state.

All of you remember the thieves uprising on 18 and 19 January 1977, which they described as a popular uprising. They said this on 18 and 19 January 1977. If this was a real popular uprising, would I have embarked upon my initiative in November 1977 and gone to Jerusalem? Would I have done this if I had felt that the ground was shaking under my feet?

I am sorry to say that the only thing that these convulsives and those who go along with them are doing is trying to give the impression abroad that a military coup is imminent in Egypt and that it is an unstable state where there is no democracy. This is nonsense. Only the truth will prevail in the end. Anyone who tries to attack Egypt's reputation, name, family and dignity must be punished according to the law and not by measures against him.

I am very happy with this meeting and I wish you success. I wish all your fraternal professional trade unions the best of luck. I will be visiting all of you and we will be speeding up the construction, insurance, food security and other projects benefitting the citizens. If each of you as well as each member of the trade unions were to build yourselves and the country, your families would be earning on your death an income larger than what you earn in your lifetime. Therefore, what we are doing is building prosperity for the future generations as well as building Egypt. Building Egypt is what each of you does to build for himself and for the future generations. However, you must pay the state's dues.

Finally, I am happy and I implore God to enable me to come to you on this day next year, if God gives me life until then, so that we may take an account of what has been built and what we have achieved democratically in the way of dealing one fatal blow to the high prices, God willing. In the meantime, I hope you will go ahead with your projects for building up yourselves and your future generations.

Brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, the doctors of Egypt; a greeting to those among you whom we have honored. Greetings to you everywhere and to your brothers who are working in Africa, the Arab countries, Europe and the United States. They are eminent people who raise Egypt's head high.

You shoulder the most serious responsibility of building the foundation for all--Egypt--by building yourselves. By building yourselves, you will build your country. By building your coming generations, you will guarantee the future of Egypt's coming generations.

You have the most honorable mission, as God Almighty says: "Who gives me food and drink, and when I am ill, it is he who cures me." You are the hand of God that helps cure. [applause]

Maintain your strong traditions, your eminence and that of your generations for the sake of Egypt, yourselves, your generations and so that Egypt may remain prosperous and hold its head high throughout the ages. Peace be upon you.

PRESIDENT TALKS TO REPORTERS ON FORTHCOMING U.S. VISIT

NC201106 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has announced that he will leave for Washington at the beginning of the second half of April. He said that he does not know whether or not Israeli Prime Minister Begin will be in the United States during his visit.

The president also said that he had sent a message to U.S. President Jimmy Carter after the autonomy negotiations in the Netherlands giving his views, and he said that these negotiations resulted in nothing.

President as-Sadat was speaking to foreign reporters this morning upon his arrival at the premises of the National Democratic Party to attend the meeting of the party leaderships.

The following are President as-Sadat's statements:

Question: Mr President, you will leave for Washington in April. Could we know the exact date and how the invitation came about?

Answer: As you read today, President Carter and I agreed on this invitation when he contacted me the day before yesterday and we agreed to make it public. We did not fix the date for the visit, but it will be around the beginning of the second half of April.

Question: Is Begin likely to be there at the same time?

Answer: President Carter did not tell me that. We only discussed what I have told you, namely my own separate visit to Washington. I do not know whether I will be there when he is there.

Question: We understand that there are problems regarding the Palestinian autonomy negotiations. Will this be the last attempt to rescue these negotiations?

Answer: Actually, I would not be revealing a secret when I say that 10 days ago I sent a personal message to President Carter explaining my viewpoint. I did not ask to be invited to the United States, but President Carter, after reading my message and discussing it with his aides, contacted me the day before yesterday and informed me that he had received my message and formed the opinion that we should meet to exchange views and give the peace process a boost, so I welcomed the idea.

Question: Have there been any recent developments, after the autonomy negotiations?

Answer: Let me say this. The recent negotiations in The Hague did not result in anything, which threatens to freeze the autonomy negotiations. This is why I immediately sent a message to President Carter who then seized the initiative and invited me to meet with him.

Question: Were you annoyed by what was seen as a retraction by Carter from the position of condemning the settlements policy at the United Nations?

Answer: I explained my views before. Even before Carter, the United States considered the settlements as illegal. Carter has not changed any of this.

Question: What about the appointment of a new Israeli foreign minister who seems to be a hardliner?

Answer: I have no comment on this.

AUTONOMY TALKS CONTINUE TO ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS

Need to Overcome Obstacles

NC191555 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today asserted the importance of continued action to push the diplomatic negotiations at the ministerial and technical levels in order to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to our correspondent, Dr Ghali said that Egypt had frankly expressed its views concerning the obstacles, such as the establishment of settlements, that Israel was placing in the way of negotiations. He said that Egypt's stand clearly denounced these settlements, considering them to be obstacles in the way of peace.

Ghali stressed the need to overcome all these obstacles, as happened when the obstacles impeding the first stage of the negotiations prior to the peace agreement were overcome.

Ghali said that Egypt's aim behind the autonomy talks was to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, which he said could only be achieved through fulfilling their right to self-determination.

Autonomy Preparatory Committee

NC191742 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--The three parties to the autonomy discussions--Egypt, the United States and Israel--have agreed to set up a committee that will meet in Israel on 23-24 March to discuss various subjects and draw up a working paper and agenda for the ninth session of the autonomy committee, which will convene in Alexandria on 25-26 March at the heads-of-delegations level.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has approved both the formation of this committee as well as its meeting date in a reply message he sent today to Yosef Burg, Israeli interior minister and head of the Israeli side to the discussions.

Last Friday, Yosef Burg sent a message to Dr Mustafa Khalil, who replied to it on Saturday by reaffirming Egypt's principled stance on full autonomy and its rejection of the Israeli attempts to disrupt and block the negotiations.

This committee will be a preparatory one to help the autonomy committee accomplish and confine the work at its next meeting to the fundamental subjects regarding autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza and to the transfer of all powers of the Israeli military authorities, including civil administration, to the elected Palestinian authority.

The Egyptian side to this committee will be led by Ambassador 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, the U.S. side by Ambassador James Leonard, and the Israeli side by Hayim Kubersky.

Solution Still Possible

NC201030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that Egypt has agreed to the formation of the steering committee proposed by Israel but this does not change the situation because Israel has not agreed to the formation of a security committee to discuss outstanding issues about which Israel always creates obstacles.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian responsible source has stated that despite the obvious and basic differences between the Egyptian and Israeli positions, it is still possible to solve the autonomy problem, now that each side has made its position clear.

The source, in a statement published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, says that Egypt will learn the details of U.S. President Carter's position when his special envoy Linowitz arrives in Cairo at 1630 on Tuesday. Linowitz will be received by President Anwar as-Sadat and later by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. The tripartite negotiations will be held in Alexandria on Wednesday 26 March instead of Tuesday 25 March.

Committee Representation Level

NC201031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says today that Israel has not named candidates to represent it on the economic and legislative committees and had protested against Egypt's level of representation. Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli side in the autonomy negotiations, has requested that representation be raised to ministerial level.

Citing diplomatic sources, the paper says that the next round will show Israel's real intentions regarding work to insure success of the negotiations and establishment of full autonomy.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SEVER RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARABS

TA191521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Egypt will not sever its relations with the Arab countries in spite of their attacks against it for having signed the peace treaty with Israel. It will openly call on the Arab nations to achieve a comprehensive agreement.

This was stated in a working paper published by the government in Cairo. The authors of the document vehemently rejected any possibility that Egypt would react to the attacks launched against it by an absolute severance of its relations with the Arab world.

AS-SADAT ACCEPTS CARTER'S INVITATION TO VISIT U.S.

NC192024 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Presidential Secretary Sa'id Zaghlul Nassar, commenting on a White House spokesman's statement today at a press conference regarding President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States, said that President Carter invited President as-Sadat to visit Washington during his telephone call [yesterday]. President as-Sadat has accepted the invitation, the date of which has not yet been set. It is likely that the visit will take place in the second half of April.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON FRENCH, EUROPEAN ROLE IN MIDEAST

NC162249 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 16 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--The Monday editorial in AL-JUMHURIYAH appeals to international society to exercise its role of pressuring Israel into implementing the text and spirit of what has been agreed upon at Camp David. It says: It is within this framework that one could look upon the role which the European states, headed by France, are aspiring to carry out.

The paper reaffirms that Egypt welcomes peace efforts by any side and that it will not oppose or refrain from voting on any initiative the European states might embark upon. It says: What is important though is that this initiative should have the required effectiveness in order that the Israeli side may accept what it has been rejecting so far.

NDP PARLIAMENTARY BODY APPROVES ETHICS DRAFT LAW

NC192045 Cairo MENA in English 1930 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 19--(MENA)--The parliamentary body of the ruling National Democratic Party today approved the draft law of ethics, which seeks to provide controls to avert the abuse of democratic liberties. The draft law will go to the Cabinet, then the president, then the People's Assembly. In the four-hour meeting, Dr Kamil Layla, secretary of the party's ideology section, denied that the draft law contradicted the constitution, saying that the party would not press for a law that might later or be quashed by the constitutional Court. Deputy Najib Sayf ad-Din said the opposition to the draft law was made up of "communists and hirelings."

'CRIMINAL' EXECUTED FOR ATTACKING PROCESSIONS IN KARBALA'

JN201041 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--Last night the criminal Talib Karim 'Alwan was executed after being indicted by the revolution court for the crime of attacking religious processions in Karbala' last November. The crime led to the deaths of 4 people and the wounding of 17 others including several women and children.

It has been learned that the criminal Talib Karim 'Alwan had left Iraq and managed, with the help of Iranian elements and the authorization of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, to leave [word indistinct] with the Iranian Muhammad Rustum in 1979 following Khomeyni's return to Iran, and resided in the city of Qom where he worked for Khomeyni's party. The criminal was later entrusted to work in the region of Arabistan for 7 months, after which he infiltrated into Iraq where he perpetrated his ugly crime.

INTERIOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA 19 MAR

JN191526 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghad, 19 Mar--Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, returned here this afternoon at the end of an 8-day visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of his Czechoslovak counterpart Jaromir Obzina. In a statement to INA following his arrival, Sa'dun Shakir said that he had held talks with Czechoslovak officials on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, in addition to other issues of joint interest.

...'TH PARTY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ALGERIA, MOROCCO, FRANCE

JN191749 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 March--The party delegation led by Majid al-'Ayid, member of the preparatory committee for the pan-Arab people's conference and director of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office in the party National Command, returned here today following an 8-day visit to Algeria, Morocco and France. In a statement to INA after his arrival, Al-'Ayid said that the national and progressive parties, the political forces, the popular and vocational organizations in Algeria and Morocco, as well as the Arab political forces in France have all expressed their full support for the provisions of the national declaration proposed by President-leader Saddam Husayn on the 17th anniversary of the glorious 8 February revolution.

Majid al-'Ayid said that these forces asserted that the president's declaration was an expression of the Arab nation's will and that they also expressed their welcome and acceptance of the invitation extended to them to attend the pan-Arab people's conference, which will be held in Baghdad on 25 March.

ATH-THAWRAH REPORTS RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SUDAN

JN201105 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH reports today that an Iraqi official recently visited Khartoum and met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

The paper adds that the RCC has decided to investigate the opinions of those fraternal countries which have not yet expressed their views with regard to President Saddam Husayn's national charter through its ambassadors in these countries. Sudan was one among those countries.

The paper says that Iraq has been and is still placing the Arab nation's interest above all considerations. Accordingly, Iraq is building its relations with the fraternal countries and all the world countries. Therefore, establishing relations with Iraq dictates that this policy should be taken into account and that fraternal countries should not act on the basis of possible neutrality between the Arabs and the imperialist schemes--schemes that have been engineered by the Camp David partners.

Sudanese President Numayri held a telephone conversation from Doha yesterday with President Saddam Husayn and expressed his support for the national charter. It is worth mentioning that President Numayri is currently visiting Doha on an official visit to Qatar.

It is to be recalled that the Sudanese President made an exclusive statement to the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD yesterday, asserting that Sudan has responded to President Saddam Husayn's initiative and expressing his desire to end the transient dispute between Sudan and Iraq.

President Numayri said that a Sudanese official will visit Baghdad soon with a message for President Saddam Husayn.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON PROPOSED NATIONAL ACTION CHARTER

ID190859 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 17-23 Mar 80 pp 23, 24 LD

[Interview granted by Iraqi Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nusayyif Jasim ad-Dulaymi to Nihad al-Mashong and Hashim Qazim in Baghdad--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How far has the national action charter progressed since its declaration and what is its immediate future?

[Answer] The national action charter has been approved by two-thirds of Arab public opinion. We have received responses showing positive attitudes toward it. Also several Arab countries have agreed to attend a summit meeting on the basis of the charter's policies. Following the receipt of responses President Saddam Husayn sent delegates to the Arab kings and presidents to acquaint them with the details of the declaration. We have received replies from 12 Arab countries. These are: Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, the Gulf states, Jordan and the PLO. As for the countries from which we have received no response, they are Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Aden and Djibouti.

It is intended to hold a summit meeting in order to implement the charter. Iraq will accept any time and date for holding the meeting. Iraq is not in a hurry despite its enthusiasm for and readiness to implement the charter and shoulder its responsibilities, because it views the situation not in terms of the immediate and present state of affairs but rather from a strategic standpoint, particularly with regard to the security of the Arab nation and its aspiration to live free of disputes and disturbances.

[Question] Is there a tentative date for holding the summit meeting?

[Answer] No, not yet. But consultations are in progress to fix a date as soon as possible.

[Question] Some of the countries that have been invited are poor countries. Because of their difficult situation they are in need of aid in every field so they can avoid falling prey to the international political game. What is Iraq's attitude in this respect?

[Answer] While the wealth of certain Arab countries exceeds their ability to invest it or hoard it, there is poverty and hunger in other Arab countries. If these countries continue to be ignored and neglected they should not be blamed if they fall into the lap of the world powers. Such a situation would mean catastrophe for the Arab countries if they fail to deal with it in time. President Saddam Husayn has warned that such a situation would create a class struggle within the Arab countries. Of course, it is not permissible that there should be some people starving to death in one Arab countries while others are excessively rich in another. This is an anomalous situation which must be rectified. Moreover, there is a need to invest the wealth hoarded in the Arab countries so that all Arabs benefit from it, particularly in the poor Arab countries, and a signified standard of living is provided.

This applies to Somalia, Yemen, Djibouti, Mauritania and others, as well as to bleeding Lebanon which is in need of extraordinary aid to be able to overcome its predicament and be rebuilt. It is not fair that we should be with Lebanon at times of rest and entertainment and abandon it when it is the victim of this grave adversity. Lebanon must be on our minds and conscience whether it is wounded or healthy.

BRIEFS

EDUCATION DELEGATION TO USSR--Baghdad, 19 March--A delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research left for Moscow today on a 2-week visit, to discuss ways of promoting the bilateral exchange of teachers in the implementation of the two countries' cultural agreement. The delegation is led by Dr Sabah Mahmud Muhammad, director of the Ideological Guidance Department at the ministry. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN]

KING HUSAYN GIVES VIEWS ON CAMP DAVID, EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

NC200805 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 17 Mar 80 pp 4-13 NC

[Exclusive interview granted in English to MONDAY MORNING correspondent Muna as-Sa'id by King Husayn of Jordan; the interview was conducted on 12 March at the Basman Palace in Amman]

[Text] [Question] President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the Gulf and Jordan and his statements on the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and a homeland on the one hand and the need for PLO participation in Mideast peace talks on the other have been hailed as a resounding success for French diplomacy in the Arab world.

Now that the visit is over, what practical steps does Your Majesty envisage to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East? In other words, Your Majesty, where do we go from here?

[Answer] I believe that the statements made by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during his recent visit to the area reflect the views of France and Europe on the framework of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. These views were voiced with courage by the president. A durable peace must be a just peace. It can only be the result of an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in June 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, which must be returned to Arab soverignty. Jerusalem in a context of peace can then become the symbol and essence of peace.

The Palestinian problem must be solved with the active participation of the Palestinians--whose representative is increasingly recognized by the world community to be the PLO--together with all the parties involved in the conflict. This must take place under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the Soviet Union as well as the U.S.A. and others. Palestinian legitimate rights must be restored on Palestinian national soil. Those rights are recognized by the world community in many U.N. resolutions. Foremost amongst those rights is self-determination under conditions of freedom. The world then must guarantee peace by ensuring the rights of all to live in peace and security in this area.

As for what next? I believe that Europe will consult together and study the situation and decide on a course of action. I do not believe that any in this world have any illusions regarding the outcome of the so-called autonomy talks scheduled to be concluded by May 26.

Israel's clear, defiant and intransigent stand leaves no room for any optimism. It is thus imperative in the interest of peace and stability in this area and the world that a proper outline of peace be clearly defined once and for all, and it is thus hoped that Europe and the world community will act towards that end--and soon.

[Question] In toasting President Giscard d'Estaing at a banquet last week, Your Majesty invited him personally "to take the initiative through the European Community and find a way to avoid a new catastrophe and pave the road for a just peace." When does Your Majesty expect this initiative and what form does Your Majesty expect it to take?

[Answer] I shall try to draw an outline of what we expect it to be like. As far as the timing is concerned, I believe before too long.

Obviously France, within the community and with the other members of the EEC, will be discussing the political situation in this area--and I hope that this may develop into a position that will be taken jointly by the nine and an initiative begun before too long. The sooner, the better.

[Question] In what sense, Your Majesty?

[Answer] I can see that the road ahead is still a very long one. And a very rough one too. But I believe that there is hope.

[Question] Does Your Majesty believe that such a European initiative will influence United States policy vis-a-vis the Arabs?

[Answer] I certainly hope this would be the case. After (Egyptian President Anwar) as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and Camp David, Europe's attitude was: "Let's wait and see." Europe wanted to give this (Camp David) process a chance, even though they were not convinced. But it's fairly obvious that this whole effort is running aground very rapidly. Positive results of the type sought by the world as a whole have not come through. Hence, Europe's move.

[Question] Is there meanwhile a chance, Your Majesty, of a pre-emptive Israeli strike?

[Answer] I believe the chances are there. Israel did create such conditions through aggression in the past. I hope that they would be very careful in Lebanon, that they would avoid giving Israel the opportunity to use her military might once to alter facts on the ground, thereby forcing the world to address itself to new realities.

[Question] Does your majesty think that the EEC countries will recognize the PLO in the near future?

[Answer] There is a general feeling...that the Palestinians must be involved in the process leading to a solution of the Palestinian problem; and the PLO, as far as the majority of countries in the world are concerned, is the legitimate representative of the people of Palestine.

[Question] But did Your Majesty sense this from President Giscard d'Estaing?

[Answer] We talked with President Giscard d'Estaing about our views and his views, the views of France in that regard. But I've had previous contacts with very many of our friends in Europe and in the world and I believe that this is recognized.

[Question] Did Your Majesty discuss with President Giscard d'Estaing the modalities of talks for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that talks or discussions or efforts towards the solution should come from the United Nations, with the involvement of the Security Council as well; that they should involve the two superpowers; that they should involve possibly other elements, some of our European friends, as well as the parties immediately concerned in the area, including the Palestinians; and that they should deal with all the problems of withdrawal, recognition of the rights of the Palestinians, Palestinian exercise of those rights--specifically, the right of self-determination under conditions of freedom--and beyond that, peace and security for all concerned once a solution is found.

[Question] So Your Majesty believes that it would be held within the framework of the UN?

[Answer] I should think so, yes, or certainly evolved from the United Nations. It would have to be with the contribution of the world community and the United Nations. But as to exactly how, or in what shape this is something that will have to be worked out.

[Question] Your Majesty, will that constitute an alternative to Camp David?

[Answer] As far as I am concerned, Camp David has not achieved very much. It was the wrong approach. The United States compromised its own position, its ability to contribute towards the establishment of a comprehensive peace by giving so much in advance to Israel and by sponsoring this peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The problem basically was never really only the problem of Egypt and Israel. The really serious problem was--and still is--Palestine, Jerusalem, the rights of Palestinians on Palestinian soil. Even more complicated than Egyptian territory is the question of the Golan Heights, for example.

The United States has lost its ability to influence matters. We in the Arab world may have suffered to a degree...but whatever has happened has not really resolved the problem as such. The problem is still there, and very much so, and therefore there must be not an alternative but there must be a genuine effort to try to establish a just and durable peace--and certainly this cannot be done through either Camp David or anything which may be construed as a continuation of Camp David. Hence my hesitation even regarding the mention of Geneva and the conference there, if it means covering up what has happened and giving it legitimacy without any clarity regarding the issue itself, where it lies and what solutions should be found for it.

[Question] In your joint communique, both Your Majesty and President Giscard d'Estaing agreed that all parties should participate in the negotiations, including the PLO. Do you see that forthcoming? When and how? Is this another stage?

[Answer] It is another stage once the framework for peace is defined. Then, obviously, discussions under the umbrella of the United Nations will have to take place, and we believe very strongly that the PLO would be one of the major factors that would have to make its contribution under such circumstances with all the other parties concerned.

We are thinking not only of the two superpowers that should obviously be there but possibly a broader grouping that might involve some of our friends in Europe and others interested in making their contribution towards the establishment of peace as well.

[Question] In the wake of President Giscard d'Estaing's Arab tour, Israel said "no" to Palestinian self-determination. It has never relinquished what it calls its divine Biblical right to settle "Judea and Samaria" or the West Bank and Gaza. And it has repeatedly said that Jerusalem will remain "united forever," meaning that it will not return East Jerusalem to Jordan or the Palestinians or the Arabs or Islam. Does Your Majesty think that Israel can be made to budge on all these positions? What can make it budge? Moral persuasion? International pressure? UN sanctions? A new Arab-Israeli war? In other words, how justified are the hopes aroused by President Giscard d'Estaing's visit?

[Answer] This has been the problem all along. Israel has claimed sovereignty over all of Palestine and other Arab territories in a blatantly clear form, particularly in regard to Arab Jerusalem. In other words, Moslem and Christian Jerusalem. It does not appear to recognize that Palestinians have any sovereign rights whatsoever over their national soil.

Autonomy deals with people under (terms of) perpetual Israeli rule and occupation, a people with no national rights on their national soil. Israel, sadly, became more clear in expressing these views as a result of the Camp David agreements and with Egypt's withdrawal from the Arab lines. Israel has become more adamant when it exacted as heavy price for nothing...(securing) U.S. commitments of support politically and materially while still in occupation of all Palestine and other Arab lands and without committing itself to total withdrawal and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in all their aspects.

Israel must be made to budge on all these issues if peace is to be attained. Moral persuasion, international pressures, possible UN sanctions and Arab commitment and determination to secure a just peace, Arab actions to develop Arab strength in all ways, must inevitably cause Israel to budge on all these issues, in her own interest as well as in the interest of peace and stability in this area and the world. Otherwise there is only disaster for all sooner or later, particularly for Israel.

[Question] Does Your Majesty see this new European-sponsored drive or initiative for Middle East peace going hand in hand with the Camp David process or as a substitute?

[Answer] I believe that the Camp David process has run its course and into a dead end, if we are talking of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East tragedy. Any real fresh attempt to secure a just and durable peace in the Mideast cannot be based on the Camp David accords.

[Question] Does Your Majesty see the Soviet Union and the U.S. joining such a European-initiated process for peace in the Middle East?

[Answer] I see no reason if there is a genuine concern for the establishment of peace in the Middle East why the Soviet Union and the United States should not join with Europe and the world community in a fresh initiative--together with all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians, and along clearly defined lines--to seek the establishment of peace.

[Question] Does Your Majesty expect the three parties to the Camp David process--Egypt, Israel and the U.S.--to meet the May 26 deadline for the conclusion of talks on Palestinian autonomy? What happens after that? In addition, does progress towards peace in the Middle East need to wait on the outcome of the U.S. Presidential election?

[Answer] I have indicated that I do not believe from all the evidence before me, and in particular Israel's attitude and declared position, that the May 26 deadline can hold any particular significance other than a meaningless end to talks on Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil. I truly hope that the world will rise to the challenge of establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East, the commencement of which, I believe, cannot await the conclusion of yet another U.S. presidential election...(meanwhile) Israel has been acting consistently to change and alter the structure and character of the occupied territories, thus creating new obstacles to peace.

[Question] What are your feelings regarding the change in Washington's position following the unanimous Security Council vote condemning Israel's settlement policies?

[Answer] In this case our position is that an important resolution was unanimously adopted by the Security Council on a very important issue. It is morally binding on all members of the Security Council and on the council as such. We are, however, deeply shocked by subsequent events in the United States which seriously damaged its remaining vestiges of credibility, as far as the U.S. is concerned, in this area. (This is so) in terms of Washington's ability to act on its own in an even-handed and just measure at this point in time, free of Israeli and Zionist pressures, and in the interest of the United States, as well as in the interest of establishing a just and durable peace in this area, and greater stability in this world. We can only hope that Americans can, before too long, once again be true to the lofty principles and ideals on which their forefathers built their nation, which grew to become one of the greatest nations in the world and that they may be able to contribute meaningfully to the causes of justice and peace for all mankind.

[Question] What are Your Majesty's expectations on the British drive to supplement Resolution 242? And is that a British initiative or one undertaken on behalf of the EEC?

[Answer] I feel that forthcoming European consultations will determine whether it is best to amend Security Council Resolution 242 to include all the missing ingredients pertaining to the Palestinians and their rights, or to draft and sponsor a new resolution to deal with all the aspects of the issue pertaining to a just and durable peace.

[Question] Your Majesty has been quoted saying an Arab summit could be held in Amman to consider the "national charter" proposed by Iraq and "recent unexpected changes" in the Middle East. Would such a parley provide an opportunity to formulate a joint Arab stand vis-a-vis the French initiative?

[Answer] The discussions are underway, as are contacts within the Arab world to examine the possibilities of an Arab summit to discuss a national charter proposed by Iraq and which Jordan endorses and supports. For the meeting to be held, our own view would be that it should be held in Iraq, the country that is responsible for the initiative, which we believe is timely and is fully justified by events.

Amman has been mentioned as a substitute, or as a possibility.

We are preparing for the next (scheduled) Arab summit...that we hope will take place in November of this year.

And as far as the French initiative is concerned, well, obviously we'll have to wait until it evolves.

[Question] How does Your Majesty conceive the future of Jerusalem?

[Answer] I believe that the Arab parts of the city of Jerusalem must return to Arab sovereignty in a context of total peace, a just peace, a lasting peace. Jerusalem can then become the symbol of peace for all time to come.

I don't have anything else that I can say in that regard, except that I've always felt that Jerusalem is so important--certainly to us as Moslems and Christians, to us as Hashemites, to us as Palestinians, and to people of Jewish faith. The Almighty in His wisdom did not make Jerusalem so important to all of us that the challenge could not be met, if there is good will amongst all, and if there is a really genuine desire for the establishment of peace based on justice.

[Question] The West is inclined to conceive of a Palestinian entity linked to Jordan in one way or another. How does Your Majesty envisage such a linkage between the two banks of the Jordan?

[Answer] My feelings is that Palestinians should have the right to choose themselves and to decide what their future will be, be it for a separate entity or for one that would be linked with Jordan or with any other part of the Arab world, or with the Arab world as a whole. But the choice must be theirs, and we should not prejudge by voicing any opinions on it.

I have every confidence and faith that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians, given the chance to choose under conditions of total freedom, will come up with an answer that all of us can accept and all of us can live with.

[Question] But does Your Majesty expect anything of the sort?

[Answer] It is difficult to say, but it is a fact that there are many ties that have lasted for so long in history and are very much there today. However our own concern, and main concern, is for the Palestinians to recover their rights in their homeland and on their national soil. Beyond that, I am sure that as members of one family we can find ways and means to meet our aspirations and our hopes and that, regardless of what happens, our ties and links will survive.

[Question] Have the Arabs, to Your Majesty's mind, used their economic and political power enough to influence U.S. policy in the Middle East? What more can they do?

[Answer] I believe that the Arabs have not used their economic and political power enough to influence United States policy in the Middle East or to have anything like sufficient inpact on the world as a whole. In point of fact I have very serious questions in that regard. First of all, we do not have as yet a position that all of us are able to put clearly before the world.

Moreover, there is the question of the sources of energy and its impact on the world. This may have positive effects in some respects, and negative effects in others. I believe that it is a situation that needs some remedy.

First of all it is unfair, though it is a fact, that the world believes that we, in the Arab world, are responsible for much of the international economic and monetary instability --despite the fact that we (Arabs) are not the sole producers of oil.

On the other hand, I believe that these hikes in (oil) prices have also been accompanied by hikes in the prices of finished goods. I believe that this is causing tremendous suffering in many parts of this globe, amongst Third World countries in particular. We in Jordan, for example, do not produce oil and therefore we ourselves are affected by what is happening. There are others within the Arab world in the same predicament.

I believe that first of all on the level of the world as a whole there must be an attempt to resolve this problem adequately and to meet the needs and aspirations of people throughout it. Within the Arab world, there is also a possibility of utilizing these resources for developments in a manner that would create an Arab stance and bring progress and make the Arab future a brighter one. I believe that there is enough that could be done, not only for the Arab world but for the world at large. However, I do not believe that our policies, as things stand now, are adequate or that they can necessarily be described as ones that serve Arab interests fully.

[Question] What, in Your Majesty's view, should the Arabs do, since they haven't used their political and military power enough?

[Answer] I think that they should get together not once a year but always. They should look at themselves, they should look at their problems, they should look at their past, at their present, at their future, at their resources programs, to better themselves, to bring about progress in a meaningful way. They should look at the rest of the world and its needs and requirements. The Arabs should recognize and realize that they are the focus of attention of this world. This area, with its strategic importance and its resources, is vital to the world. They should realize, therefore, their worth, and it upsets me immensely to see how Israel, a small country in this area, appears at times to have such an impact worldwide in comparison with the Arabs, who have a just cause and who have so much that the world requires and needs. We should think of our past. We should think of the future. We should think of the threat to our very identity.... It is not in quantity but in quality that we can make our impact felt.

[Question] How does Your Majesty view the Lebanese tragedy?

[Answer] I am and have been greatly and deeply anguished and concerned with all that has beset Lebanon and its beloved people. Lebanon seems to have become the battleground of all contradictions that exist in our world. The price has been too high and the bomb continues to tick, ready to be exploded with devastating results to Lebanon and all Arabs.

I remain hopeful that the Lebanese people will rise together to reach an agreement by which they can all live in peace and harmony and can built once again a strong, stable, united home for them all. All of us within our Arab world, to which they belong, must help them to achieve this end. We do not believe that enough has been done in this regard. We are, and have always been, for a free, independent, peaceful, progressive and strong Lebanon and we pray that the sons of Lebanon may soon demonstrate that they are for these objectives and that we may all see a light at the end of the tunnel and the beginning of a new dawn.

NEW GOVERNORS APPOINTED; 'BLOODY CLASHES' REPORTED

NC191256 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Today, the sons of the Syrian Al-Hasakah province lowered the Syrian flag and raised the Iraqi flag in its place in the wake of bloody clashes between security men and Muslim Brotherhood supporters. The clashes took place in Dayr az-Zawr, Al-Hasakah and Al-Qamishli. A number of people were killed or wounded.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that this morning the body of the mukhtar of Al-Kallasah quarter in Aleppo was found. He had been butchered in his house. The correspondent adds that a state of cautious calm prevailed in Aleppo province today and that some stores opened for business.

It has transpired that the dismissal of the town's governor was due to a charge of cooperating with the Muslim Brotherhood. The dismissed governor comes from Dayr az-Zawr township.

'Fierce Battles'

TA192005 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The unrest in Syria has, in the last 2 days, spread to the area close to the Iraqi border. Fierce battles are going on in three cities in this region between underground members and the Syrian security forces. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that relative calm has prevailed for the last 2 days in the cities of Halab, Hamad and Homs in northern Syria. However, underground members have distributed pamphlets pledging to immediately resume the struggle to topple the regime.

President al-Asad today appointed three new governors for the northern Syrian districts close to the Iraqi border and the area close to the Jordanian border. Damascus Radio expressed the hope that the new governors would be more acceptable to the local population.

IDLIB PEASANTS HOLD RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF AL-ASAD

JN191654 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Idilb--The villages of the Orontes valley have witnessed a national [as heard] rally to express the masses' rejection of the criminal acts perpetrated by the agents of colonialism and Zionism with the aim of weakening the heroic stand of the Syrian Ba'th Party and Al-Asad in face of the imperialist challenge and the Camp David accords' partners.

Hundreds of peasants in the villages of 'Allani, Dalbiyah, Hamziyah, Jisr al-Maksur, (Al-Faruqiyah) and (Hattarah) in the subdistrict of Salqin held popular rallies yesterday as an expression of their pride in the president's revolutionary measures and his firm stand on the side of peasants against all forms of exploitation and oppression. The peasants stressed that they are ready to sacrifice in defense of the land, which they water with their sweat and blood, and that they are armed soldiers ready to confront any suspect move by reaction and feudalism.

The peasants added that the masses, whose dignity was preserved by the Ba'th and for whom the leader made further accomplishments, will be faithful in their responsibilities toward their revolution, party and leader of their march. Moreover, they will cut off the hands that try to tamper with the masses' destinies.

Comrade Muhammad Naffakh, Ba'th Party branch member in Idilb, stressed to these masses that the revolution ignited by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for the sake of the toiling masses will be generous with the masses, who are the ones that confront all agents and traitors who joined imperialism and Zionism, enemies of the struggling peoples.

Comrade Naffakh stressed the need to close ranks and to strongly confront anyone who dares to harm the march of the toilers. He praised the high spirits and sense of responsibility with which the peasants are characterized, particularly in the present delicate circumstances, which emphasize the depth of the toiling masses' cohesion with their party and leader of their march comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE CONDEMNS IRAQ

JN201028 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Mar 80 p 1 JN

[Text] Tripoli (SANA)--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference has reiterated that Iraq's call for holding an Arab People's Conference in Baghdad is a unilateral step with a destructive effect on pan-Arab action.

In a statement issued the day before yesterday, the secretariat said this step is an encroachment on pan-Arab action.

The secretariat pointed out that it had no prior knowledge of this call, warning at the same time against driving a wedge in the ranks of the Arab national liberation movement. The secretariat urged the brother secretariat members and all trade unions and popular and political organizations to be against this step and its separatist impact at a time when the Arab nation is in dire need of concerting efforts and shoring up the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist schemes.

DAMASCUS DAILIES COMMENT ON AL-ASAD'S RECENT SPEECHES

JN200846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "Our Reply to the Conspiracy," the newspaper TISHRIN writes the following comment: President Hafiz al-Asad's speeches before the emergency conferences of the organizations and unions have pinpointed the scope and objectives of the plot to which Syria is exposed. President Hafiz al-Asad has also defined the principal motivator of this plot; namely, the United States. President al-Asad described the internal enemy as the reactionary forces which move on imperialist instructions.

The president went even further to outline the road to be pursued by our masses in order to wreck our enemy plotters. He added: In the absence of the complete and integrated social process, we will not be able to terminate the reactionary moves. We must build socialism to liberate the land and to confront the U.S. aggression. Our road to confront the plot is the same that has been chosen by all the masses in the Arab homeland. TISHRIN adds: President al-Asad's firm choice is to crystalize the Syrian stand which makes Syria an example to be followed by all the pan-Arab liberation forces and a leader in the pan-Arab battle against imperialism, Zionism, treason and capitulation. Imperialism and reaction have been working to wipe out this stand. TISHRIN asserts that the stronger Syria's steadfastness and determination to proceed along the road, the stronger become the internal and foreign plots, challenges and pressures against Syria. The more Syria is determined to proceed along this road, the weaker becomes the enemy's strength to harm Syria. TISHRIN says: Being aware of the real dimensions of the new stage in Syria, the enemy is racing time to cut off the road. However, President Hafiz al-Asad's definition of the policy's broad lines will undoubtedly prompt the enemy to exert strenuous efforts in order to abort the stage. This makes us responsible to use all resources with maximum strength to implement the president's program on all levels and fields.

Our masses are quite prepared to offer sacrifices and struggle for the president's program. This program is peerless in terms of its daring, national and progressive provisions. If Syria has in the past suffered from evasion and slackness in implementing the president's steps proposed in his national program, the current circumstances do not permit any delay in implementing the decisions and the daring and firm instructions which were proposed by the president as the firm and daring reply to the plot. The implementation of the president's proposal will give Syria a tremendous momentum capable of not only confronting the challenges but also of advancing along the road of justice, equality and freedom and along the road of liberation and realizing unity. Our masses are not alone in the battle. All the Arab masses and all the anti-imperialist forces rally around our masses in their battle for the sake of the president's objectives and principles.

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH writes: Our masses' vigilance and deep awareness of their real struggling role have always been up to the level of pan-Arab responsibilities. This is because this country, people, party and leadership are qualified to shoulder these responsibilities at a time when the Arab nation's enemies are working to weaken the stands and change the real image before the Arab masses. Despite all the enemies' attempts, Syria has remained the owner of the genuine and clear stand. All the tendentious campaigns have failed to influence our people, who are tenaciously determined to continue their leading struggling role and to confront all the internal and foreign plots. The Syrian citizen is fully aware of Syria's present status as a stronghold facing the United States, As-Sadat's treason and Israel. The Syrian citizen said "no" to Camp David and "no" to the self-rule plot. Our masses are interpreting their stand into action in order to wreck the plot and the aggression. ATH-THAWRAH adds: The Syrian citizen knows well that Syria is a socialist and revolutionary base achieving the citizen's aspirations in a society where justice prevails and oppression and exploitation are nonexistent, and where the toiling masses are the decision makers and where every reactionary role to destroy the masses' gains and accomplishments are ineffective. This revolutionary and socialist base is the guarantee for setting up a socialist unified Arab society aspired to by all the Arab masses.

MOROCCO

KING'S ADVISER, FINANCE MINISTER LEAVE FOR BAGHDAD

LD192124 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Ahmad Bensouda, the king's adviser, today left for Baghdad. Finance Minister Abdelkamel Reghai also left for Baghdad leading an important delegation for talks with the Iraqi authorities.

SUDAN

KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOLLOWING STUDENT RIOTS

JN191741 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 March--Professor 'Ali Muhammad Fadl, president of Khartoum University, issued a decision today under which the university will be closed until further notice in order to preserve the students' lives and the safety of the university's property. During the past few days, the university campus witnessed student riots, which exacerbated today.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR ISSUES STATEMENT ON MOROCCO-S. AFRICA WEAPONS LINK

LD192141 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A statement issued by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] Information Ministry today exposes the collusion of the Rabat regime with the racist Pretoria regime.

The statement confirms that the Saharan revolutionaries have seized light weapons and ML90 armored vehicles manufactured in South Africa during recent battles in southern Morocco. The statement adds: Despite attempts to distort the markings of these weapons, we have been able to determine their racist identity, in addition to receiving corroborating statements from captured Moroccan officers and the drivers of the vehicles, who confirmed that the weapons were unloaded in Casablanca and that the Morocco second bureau removed all markings indicating their origin.

The SDAR statement went on to say that the drivers of the vehicles admitted that they were trained by officers of the racist Pretoria administration. It recalls in relation to the collusion between the Rabat and Pretoria regimes, the list published by the POLISARIO in 1977 which named the ships used to transport weapons from South Africa to the Moroccan regime. The SDAR statement also states that Africa will reply without hesitation to this cooperation and collusion between the king of Morocco and the racists in South Africa, collusion which is condemned and denounced by all African countries and the forces loving peace and justice.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING VISIT TO UNITED STATES

Acceptance of Invitation

TA191747 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is to meet with President Carter in the second half of April. Our political correspondent Shimon Schiffer is standing outside the Prime Minister's office:

[Begin] At about 1800 yesterday the U.S. President, Mr Carter, phoned me and invited me to Washington to hold talks with him. He informed me that he had invited President as-Sadat to hold talks, but this time it will not be a tripartite meeting. The talks will be held separately. As for the date of the visit, after receiving the invitation the date will be determined in contacts between the two governments. Of course, I will leave after the Passover.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, a report that has just come from Washington, attributed to White House sources, says that President Carter will emphasize to the Israeli prime minister the severe results if the autonomy negotiations are unsuccessful.

[Begin] Had you not posed the question I would have made a statement. It is very short. This is unfounded. We had a friendly conversation, warm, and he gave me the invitation. I, of course, accepted. As you will remember, since Aswan I have been asked what will happen if you and President as-Sadat are invited to Washington. I always say that I think if we are invited we will accept the invitation. We are not initiating what is called a summit meeting or a tripartite meeting. However, if President Carter invites us I think each of us will answer in the affirmative. I assume that this will be President as-Sadat's answer as well. There was no warning or anything like that. This is simply aimed at holding talks on the autonomy negotiations. He gave me the invitation.

[Schiffer] Sir, are you aware of the fact that in these talks Israel will be called upon to make further concessions to advance the autonomy negotiations?

[Begin] Why concessions? [Laughter] I will return from the United States, and I will give you a report.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will you submit any new proposals for the negotiations? Have you thought about this?

[Begin] Everything has to be thought over. Let me think things over. We have a clear plan. There is the Camp David agreement. On all occasions I stress, as I will in the United States, that agreement can be reached by 26 May. But there is one condition--that everyone be faithful to the Camp David agreements. This is our fundamental approach. There is no point or reason to deviate from this. The talks are open. We have to listen. The U.S. President asked that we come to him. We will listen to what he has to say. This is natural.

Begin Meets With Lewis

TA200941 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Jerusalem this morning and apparently talked with him about Begin's approaching journey to Washington for talks with President Carter. The journey will take place in the second half of April, and Mr Begin will discuss with the U.S. President the fate of the autonomy talks.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON PLO'S IMAGE, EARLY ELECTIONS

TA141239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin went to the president's house in Jerusalem at noon for one of their periodic talks. Afterwards the prime minister talked briefly to reporter David Essing. [begin recording]

[Essing] Prime Minister Begin says he briefed President Navon on recent political developments.

[Begin] Well, I reported to the president about the problems we have. We had an exchange of views for which I am grateful to the President of Israel.

[Essing] Mr Begin, in the past week there has been more recognition by several European countries of the PLO. What is your reaction to that sir?

[Begin] Well, of course it is a very negative development, but we know the reasons, the interests behind it. We will survive.

[Essing] Do you think it's because of oil or the government's policy, as the opposition says?

[Begin] Nothing in common with any Israeli government's policy. This is a development which started years ago.

[Essing] Prime Minister Begin was asked to comment on recent reports that his coalition partner, the NRP, has been holding secret contacts with the opposition Labor Party. Begin said that all the NRP leaders, including Dr Burg, have told him there is absolutely no truth to those reports. This is David Essing at the president's residence. [end recording]

FURTHER ON WEIZMAN'S REPORTED TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

South African Foreign Ministry

TA191225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The South African Foreign Ministry does not know a thing about 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Pretoria. Our correspondent 'Oded Ban-'Ami has learned this from a spokesman of the South African Foreign Ministry. The press adviser of the South African prime minister refused to react to this subject.

It was learned this morning that the defense minister stayed in South Africa last week and talked with South African leaders on security affairs.

Weizman Refuses to Elaborate

TA191950 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told our military correspondent this evening that he had nothing to add to the announcement issued by the South African Defense Ministry denying publications about Weizman's visit to South Africa.

Our correspondent reported that in the middle of last week the defense minister left for a 4-day visit to South Africa and discussed joint security issues. Prior to the Cabinet session last Sunday the defense minister reported to the prime minister on the results of his visit. The visit was kept absolutely secret in Israel and publication of this affair was avoided.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR SAYS EUROPE HAS ANTI-ISRAELI BIAS

TA191232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Shamir says that West European leaders' declarations give the impression they intend to add their voice to the anti-Israeli chorus and to support the activity launched against Israel's existence. The series of declarations by the German and French leaders who view themselves as our friends is regrettable and worrisome. This friendship is incompatible with a recognition of the PLO and support for a Palestinian state. Europe must look into its policy and know that such declarations endanger peace. The Europeans should support the Camp David Accords and aid the moderate forces in our region.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes this was Minister Shamir's first speech in the Knesset. He answered four motions to the Knesset agenda dealing with the European declarations. The first motion was submitted by MK Abba Eban who said that the European governments do not take Israel's interests into consideration.. In his opinion this is a result of the smell of oil but also a result of Israel's policy, especially in the sphere of settlements. Me'ir Pa'il [who submitted the second motion] said one should not oppose the European moves but rather go along with them and favorably view the establishment of a national Palestinian home. Yehuda Ben-Me'ir [who was third to speak] denounced the West European leaders' declarations saying they support a murderous and terrorist organization. Roni Milo [the last to submit a motion] called for uniting the Israeli camp [against the European initiative] saying that the forces that try to disintegrate it reinforce hostile declaration in Europe.

BURG SAYS WASHINGTON SUMMIT DOES NOT MEAN TALKS FAILED

TA191810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The head of Israel's ministerial autonomy team, Dr Yosef Burg, said that the decision to hold a summit meeting does not imply that the autonomy talks have failed but that there are certain matters that have to be clarified at a higher level. At the same time Dr Burg confirmed that Israel received information from the United States 2 weeks ago that President Carter, as well as European leaders, view the target date for the autonomy talks as a final date for concluding the talks. Burg said that this interpretation is tantamount to issuing an ultimatum to Israel, and this violates the Camp David agreements.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MURTADA MEETS BURG, YADIN IN JERUSALEM

TA191808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada, held talks with ministers Yadin and Burg today. He visited their offices in Jerusalem.

SPECULATION CONTINUES ON EARLY ELECTIONS

Minister Hammer Comments

TA191255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Let us now go over to the issue of early elections. Education Minister Hammer said that in the coming month the government will have to make great efforts to organize and mend its internal functioning. Our correspondent Hagay Hitron brings some of the remarks made by the education minister. [begin recording]

[Hitron] It is true that the public senses a crisis in the government's functioning now but this is a sort of a wave that can be overcome. Hammer also says that to a large extent this is an artificial wave reinforced by interested elements.

[Hammer] I do not think that there has been a certain event in the past month or two that could be considered as the point beyond which things are intolerable and [the government's] functioning cannot proceed. The state does not face a danger from the hands of this government. I will add that the government should make some efforts to cope with problems but there is an internal danger resulting from the citizens' feelings if these feelings are that only one party in this country can govern [Alinement] while another [Likud] which after 30 years has tried [to do things] is to be told to go home after 2 years.

[Hitron] The education minister therefore believes that the government should be enabled to exhaust the opportunity granted it by the electorate up to the end of its term. He mentioned that after the last Cabinet meeting he convinced the two other NRP ministers to oppose a discussion of early elections now since, in his opinion, the very discussion of the issue in fact promotes its. Minister Hammer expressed surprise at the Alinement.

[Hammer] One of the things I find surprising is that many parts of the Alinement--even before elections are held, before their results are known at all--state it will not go with the NRP, that it will not give it such an extensive influence as it currently enjoys. One should not boast of unknown results. Public opinion polls are not elections yet and no situation is similar to another. This is part of human relations, therefore I believe that the NRP that enjoyed very friendly and fair relations in this government should seriously think before it makes an act that may break the government. [End recording]

Poll Shows Little Change

TA191630 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Mar 80 p 3 TA

[Text] Practically no changes occurred in the popularity of the prime minister, the finance minister and the defense minister. According to the latest opinion poll, the prime minister's popularity went up by 2.1 percent, that of the finance minister went down by 0.6 percent and the defense minister's popularity went up by 0.3 percent, according to a nationwide PORI Institute opinion poll conducted for HA'ARETZ.

The percentage of those satisfied with Begin as prime minister stood at 27.7 in March compared to 25.6 in January (HA'ARETZ, 30 Jan). Those satisfied with Hurvitz as finance minister numbered 36.0 percent, as against 36.6 percent in January. The percentage of those satisfied with Weizman as defense minister reached 58.2, compared to 57.9 in January.

Dissatisfaction with Begin as prime minister was expressed by 46.8 percent (45.8 in January). Prominent among those dissatisfied are members of the higher income brackets, intellectuals, academics, administrative employees, people of European and American origin and senior citizens who were in Israel before the establishment of the state.

In March, 36.7 percent were dissatisfied with Hurvitz as finance minister (33.2 in January), and almost the same percentage are satisfied with him: 36.0 (36.6 in January). Support for the finance minister is particularly strong among the youth (48.0 percent support him), higher income groups (43.1 percent) and among the native born (43.6 percent). Opposition to the finance minister is particularly strong among the less educated (52.4 percent oppose him), lower income groups (45.0) and senior citizens (43.0).

Defense minister 'Ezer Weizman continues to be the most popular Cabinet member. Satisfaction with him was expressed by 58.2 percent (57.9 in January), as opposed to 16.5 percent who are dissatisfied with him (12.8 in January). Among those satisfied with Weizman, particularly prominent are young people (65.6 percent satisfied), manual workers (63.4 percent), people of Asian and African origin (63.4 percent) and relatively recent immigrants (63.0 percent).

The poll encompassed a representative cross-section of 1,200 men and women over 18 years of age, who were personally interviewed in their homes.

DAVAR Speculates About Elections

TA192111 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Mar 80 p 7 TA

[Dani'el Bloch commentary: "How to Advance Elections"]

[Excerpt] The assessment is rife in every political circle and party that the elections to the 10th Knesset will be brought forward and that they won't be held on the date set by law--November 1981. The question now is only when the Cabinet will fall, over what issue, and who will cause the downfall. Interior Minister Dr Burg asserted this week that there was no sense in advancing the elections before Independence Day, so as not to disrupt the holiday mood on Pessah and Independence Day. However, as far as public opinion is concerned, the contrary is true. Nothing will contribute better to the holiday mood than the fall of the Cabinet and early elections.

The coalition partners are clearly apprehensive of early elections. The chief loser will be Agudat Yisra'el, which won't have so many benefits in the next Cabinet. The NRP is also wary lest it stops being the element of balance, or that an electoral situation might be created where it will no longer be needed in a coalition. Within the Likud itself there are many who fear early elections, there being no doubt that the Likud stands to lose its rule. A great number of the present Likud Knesset members won't be elected to the next Knesset, and there is a tangible risk that, with the fall of the government, the Likud will split into two or three factions, either before or immediately after the elections. Also the Democratic Movement, in its present form, can gain very little in the next elections, and they may not even reach the minimum percentage needed to secure a Knesset seat. The only chance its members have is to join a new trend in the center of the political map. However, not all the potential factors of a liberal center are interested in the Democrats, and certainly not in all their leaders as a package deal. The one reasonable assumption at the moment seems to be that no single complete party will bring the coalition down in the near future, and if this happens, it will be due to individual actions by single members of the Likud, the Democrats or the NPR.

The Labor Party, as the opposition, can adopt one of two options: It can sit and wait until somebody in the coalition causes the fall of the Cabinet, or it may try and initiate moves likely to accelerate this process. An initiated move must include promises of some kind, as no politician is an altruist willing to topple a government without reaping any benefit from such a move.

The question is whether the toppling of the government is of such an urgent national interest that it deserves the payment of a political price. Labor Party leaders estimate that the longer this government continues to rule, the better the Alinement's prospects in the next elections, but the political and socio-economic situation will reach a nadir that will be very difficult to mend. The sooner the government goes, the easier it will be to repair its various mistakes and blunders. The problem is to find the margin of balance between the urgent need of toppling the government and the price that one may pay for its rapid demise. The point of balance should be a rapid and specific, but limited, payment unlikely to shackle the hands of the Labor Party and the Alinement regarding the policy they will adopt in various fields when they return to rule.

In other words, there is no doubt that various elements in the NRP are ready to topple the government today in return for a Labor Party pledge to coopt them unconditionally in the post-election coalition. The Labor Party, however, must not undertake such a commitment, because what the NRP has in mind is not only the division of portfolios and maintaining the religious status quo, as was the custom in the past, but they have intentions that pertain also to the political sphere. If a coalition with the NRP implies more settlements in Samaria, further surrenders to Gush Emunim and to Rabbi Loewinger, a ban on negotiations with Jordan and with Palestinians and no territorial compromise in the West Bank and in Gaza, then the Alinement must not consent to this, neither before the elections nor after them.

UN AMBASSADOR RETURNS FOR 'CONSULTATIONS'

TA191237 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1050 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 19 March--Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Professor Blum who arrived in Israel for consultations today said he hopes that the United States will prevent a change in Resolution 242 in the discussion expected to be held in the UN Security Council at the end of this month.

Professor Blum, who met with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations yesterday, said he talked with him about the possibility that the UN Security Council will reconvene at the end of next week to continue discussing the Palestinian question.

"We wanted to coordinate positions on this issue and I have reason to believe that the United States is firm on its stand and its support for Israel and that no deviation from this position will occur."

Asked whether U.S. support for the anti-Israel decision adopted by the UN Security Council on 1 March and President Carter's apology later were not but an intentional exercise, the ambassador said that as far as Israel is concerned there are only two facts: one is that the Americans voted as they voted and the other is that the U.S. President later announced this was a mistake.

The ambassador believes that the settlements issue and the question of populating Hebron were not the reason for the increasing opposition to Israel's position prevailing among countries friendly to Israel. "This was only a cause, not the reason, and one must not confuse reason with cause," he said. It is a fact that the Security Council discussion was decided on last year, a long time before the government dealt with the Hebron issue. Professor Blum said that in private talks with many UN representatives, one can convince them of Israel's justness on many points although their private agreement with our positions can not always be publicly expressed.

Professor Blum said that the renewed discussion at the end of the month is initiated by the PLO. The matter was brought up by a group of 23 countries--19 of which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel--that acts within the PLO's guidelines and mission.

As for the U.S. position in the renewed discussion, Professor Blum said that the United States has commitments toward Israel and we believe it will prevent the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution that will not be compatible with Resolution 242 which is the sole basis for peace in the Middle East.

It is true that an addendum to Resolution 242 is involved here and Israel has made it clear that whoever attempts to pass an addendum to this resolution [in the UN Security Council] damages the agreed-upon basis [for the Camp David Accords] and jeopardizes the peace process. It is not yet clear whether a vote will finally be held on this though.

During his current visit the ambassador will meet with Foreign Minister Shamir, Prime Minister Begin, Defence Minister Weizman, Interior Minister Burg and the Foreign Ministry's senior staff.

MINISTER NISIM EXPRESSES VIEWS ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE

TA141646 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Mar 80 TA

[Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Nisim interviewed by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer within the framework of a report on the two ministerial camps--one favoring settlement and one objecting to it. Time and place not indicated--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nisim] Our activity in Eretz Yisra'el--If we had waited until what is called the correct timing as far as the international arena is concerned, this would have not been done. I welcome the settlement activity that has been going on since 1967 by the national unity government, by the Alinement governments--and settlements have indeed been established--and I welcome the settlements established during the Likud Government's rule. All these settlements were established at the wrong timing, international consensus maintains, because the international community, we must know, objects to the establishment of Jewish settlements in principle; not only to settlements in Judaea and Samaria, but also to populating [Jews] in Jerusalem, or what is called East Jerusalem.

The United States, too, maintains that settlements should not be established. Supposing settlements had not been established and we had not even discussed settlement or the possibility of populating Jews or establishing [Jewish] institutions in the town of Hebron; and if land had not been expropriated in Jerusalem, would the United States then have changed its position in the autonomy talks by even an inch? Would it have conceded because we were good boys who did not establish settlements? Would it, for example, give up its position regarding the question of a legislative power [in the autonomy] or holding elections in East Jerusalem?

I cannot conceive of a practical possibility of establishing in the town of Hebron--in the Hebron Jewish quarter--a proper Jewish settlement, proper in the quantitative sense; therefore I maintain that today it would be more appropriate to establish institutions in the town of Hebron. There is nothing wrong in that. There are vacant Jewish houses [in Hebron] and they must be activated by Jewish institutions.

LINOWITZ 'SHARPLY' CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT'S EXPROPRIATION OF LAND

TA141520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Mar 80 TA

[Text] U.S. ambassador to the autonomy talks Sol Linowitz sharply condemned the government's decision to expropriate land in the Jerusalem area. Our political correspondent has learned that in a meeting with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, Linowitz said that the expropriated was ill-timed given that the final stage of the talks on the establishment of the autonomy was approaching. Linowitz reiterated that Israel should acceed to establishing a committee in the framework of the negotiating teams which would discuss the issue of security within the boundaries of the self-administration.

U.S. sources told our correspondent that in the autonomy talks, the United States will focus on the way for coopting the inhabitants of East Jerusalem into the elections for the self-administration.

JEWISH SETTLERS PROTEST UNCHANGED LEGAL STATUS OF LAND

TA191227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Six heads of local Jewish councils in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are staging a hunger strike in front of the Knesset, protesting that the government has not changed the legal status of lands beyond the Green Line.

GOVERNMENT, U.S. DISAGREE ON OIL SUPPLY COMMITMENT

TA200940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Differences of opinion emerged between Israel and the United States on the implementation of the agreement under which Washington pledged to supply oil to Israel in times of emergency. Our economic correspondent Yosi Melman says the dispute is over the meaning of the concept--state of emergency.

Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i is leaving in 4 days for the United States in order to dettle the dispute. He will meet with the U.S. energy secretary and with Secretary of State Vance. The U.S. commitment to Israel became valid 4 months ago, with the return of the 'Alma oilfield to Egypt. According to that commitment, the United States guarantees the supply of oil to Israel for a period of 15 years in the case of an emergency wherein Israel will be unable to purchase oil on its own. The debate is over the concept--state of emergency.

AFGHANISTAN

PROTOCOL SIGNED FOR SOVIET SATELLITE STATION

LD192241 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A protocol accord was signed between the Ministry of Communication of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Promash Export Agency of the Soviet Union concerning the installation of ground stations for the exploitation of satellites to receive and transmit television programs and carry out communications services. According to this protocol the Soviet Union provides the ground stations of the Mars and (Lotus) types as (?grants in aid) which will establish communications links with satellites. Two ground stations will be installed with the cooperation of Afghan personnel. A so[illegible] of the Ministry of Communications stressed that the Mars ground station will be instal[illegible] in Afghanistan in mid-1980, which, besides facilitating communications services with foreign countries, will also provide possibilities of viewing foreign television programs, especially the 1980 Moscow Olympic games. The source added that the operation of the (Lotus) station is predicted for 1982, which will provide the possibility of telephone, telegram and telex links with foreign countries through intersputniks. Similarly a permanent exchange of television programs with foreign countries will become possible. The source added that the preliminary survey for the establishment of this project has already been carried out.

FRENCH JOURNALISTS DESCRIBE SOVIET CONVOY AMBUSH

BK191638 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 18 March (AFP)--Two French journalists watched Moslem insurgents ambush a Soviet military convoy on Monday [17 March] as they [words indistinct] the Pakistani border after three weeks travelling around Afghanistan.

Jerome Marchand and photographer Alian Dejean said however on their arrival in the Pakistani capital that Soviet troops seemed relaxed and in full control of main roads and towns, especially on the Salang passroute to the Soviet border with the heaviest contingents at the crucial tunnel.

The two journalists came across the ambush 36 kilometres (22 miles) west of Jalalabad. Overnight the insurgents had dug a one metre (yard) trench across the road and had been aniping since 8 a.m. at Soviet trucks blocked at the broken track. Two trucks exploded in flames and Dejean was able to get some photos, but the two had 20 nasty minutes until Soviet reinforcements and a MiG fighter cleared the road.

While fighting was still in progress, their driver took the two Frenchmen to a small cillage near the scene of the ambush and had to swear on his honour they were not Russians. Even so, hostility (?was) dangerously high.

Soon two MI-24 helicopters arrived on the spot firing rockets at insurgent positions while three tanks ploughed through the trench and sprayed the rock face with bullets. The two newsmen did not see the mojahedin slip away, but caught sight of Afghan troops in hot pursuit.

The journalist said the atmosphere in the Afghan capital was far tanser than during an earlier visit in January, with Soviet troops now patrolling in full daylight. But the two managed to avoid being caught in the siege of Western newsmen in the Intercontinental Hotel, where a couple of colleagues were still trapped when they left.

The French newsmen reported that very young recruits of Soviet-installed Babrak Karmal's Parcham militia were now armed, and even former militants of the ousted Khalq communist party had been given back their weapons.

The area housing Soviet advisers was guarded by minitanks 24-hours a day, with mixed Afghan-Soviet patrols watching crossroads in armoured vehicles.

The two spent 10 days in the capital and saw no disturbances during that time. They travelled north as far as [word indistinct] 450 kms (260 miles) from Kabul and only 80 kms (50 miles) from the Soviet border.

Here not a gap in the rocks was left unguarded, with tanks standing vigil at each pass or crossroads, said Marchand. Traffic was heavy, with long Soviet convoys ferrying fuel and other supplies to the capital.

The two newsmen came across a 300-vehicle armoured convoy at Mazar-e Sharif. By morning it had gone, apparently to the northern provinces of Kathagac [as received] and Badakhshan. They believed that Soviet troops were beginning to spread over the country from four huge military camps spotted just north of Kabul, confirming reports of a coming huge spring offensive against the Moslem insurgents.

Meanwhile back in the capital, foreign circles speculated about the health of Babrak Karmal and the reason of his recent trips to Soviet-allied nations. The president, set in power after the Soviet intervention in late December, has not been seen in public for some time.

Rebels Inflict Heavy Losses

JN200656 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] An Afghan revolutionary spokesman has disclosed that Afghan rebels have recently killed some 2,500 Soviet soldiers throughout Afghanistan. The spokesman added that the rebels have captured the strategic district of Baghlan, north of Kabul.

According to foreigners and AP as well as hundreds of Afghan tribesmen who have arrived on the Afghan-Pakistani border to purchase foodstuffs, the eastern outskirts of Kabul has been calm and the eastern road linking Pakistan with Jalalabad is passable for vehicles.

The district of Baghlan, which is located on the main road between Kabul and the Soviet border, is a vital strategic area for Soviet troops. A spokesman for the Afghan Islamic Party has stated that some 400 Afghan rebels were killed during the past week in the district of Baghlan. The Afghan rebels, however, managed to liberate the district following a series of clashes and after killing well over 400 Soviet troops.

The spokesman, who made his statement in Peshawar, Pakistan, added that the Afghan Muslim rebels last week killed some 1,700 Soviet soliders in the Province of Konarha. The Afghan rebels shot down two Soviet machingun-equipped helicopters.

Arrivals from Kabul said that the sound of gunfire is being heard during the nights. They added that Afghan armed men and tanks are positioned in most suburbs and approaches to the capital to which normal life has returned.

KABUL REPORTS REMAINDER OF EGYPTIAN 'SPY'S' INTERVIEW

LD192249 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Now we present the last part of the interview with Zia'ddin Mahmud, the Egyptian spy:

Question: According to your own assertions implicating you, what kind of punishment would the Afghan judiciary map out for you? What sort of punishment would you anticipate?

Answer: Execution by (?hanging).

Question: As you said earlier, the CIA, West Germany, Egypt and Arab reaction are training [words indistinct] against Afghanistan. Do the activities constitute an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, an Islamic country?'

Answer: This does not constitute an interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Now I am (?convinced) of this fact [words indistinct]. I have not purposely come here, and at present [words indistinct].

Question: Before going to West Germany, prompted by the CIA, (?taking) into consideration the relations between the CIA, West Germany and Israel [words indistinct] against Afghanistan on the basis of (?the) Islamic league, or you were just [words indistinct] such activities?

Answer: As I stated earlier, I was deceived. I have come here on the basis of my Islamic beliefs and they have [word indistinct] on the same (?premises), and not only me but also a large number of innocent Muslims of the (?pretext) that Islam had been (?imperiled) in Afghanistan. I was sent here to fight. I was told that it was the duty of every Muslim to fight for Islam, and I repeat that (?I would speak).

Question: As you said before, when the U.S. and other imperialist countries and Egyptian reactionaries [words indistinct] continue their subversion in Afghanistan, would (?these) not run counter to your Islamic beliefs?

Answer: They do. And now I am (?convinced), after seeing the noble people of Afghanistan living under favorable conditions. There is no (?coercion) or [word indistinct]. All the activities of the imperialist nations constitute an interference in the internal affairs of this Islamic country. I believe now that these acts were anti-Islamic, but I [words indistinct].

Question: Should the Afghan Government [words indistinct] release you now or after a few days what sort of activities would you carry out after you had returned to your homeland?

Answer: It would be difficult for me to return to Egypt or Kuwait. I may go to another country or travel to another place.

Question: Why would it be difficult?

Answer: Because after this interview is (?exposed) to the attention of world public opinion I would face certain problems.

Question: How do you feel now, after (?you had concessions)? and do you have any message to be conveyed by the mass media?

Answer: The (? respected) journalists present here should tell the peoples of the world, especially those in the Muslim countries, not to be deceived by the false propaganda of imperialist circles about Afghanistan. You should not be led astray like I was by coming to Afghanistan in this manner. They must know that there is no bombing nor is there any poison gas in this country. There is a (?mature) air of (?coping) and the people are living simple and decent lives. I came to Afghanistan to find [words indistinct] but I was treated so nicely that I regret my past actions.

KARMAL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM POLAND'S BABIUCH

LD192106 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Department of Information of the Foreign Ministry reports that a reply telegram addressed to Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, from Edward Babiuch on the occasion of the latter's election as prime minister of the People's Republic Poland, has arrived in Kabul.

SARWARI VISITS QANDAHAR SITES, RETURNS TO KABUL 19 MAR

LD192107 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Asadollah Sarwari, deputy prime minister and member of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, paid a visit to the shrine where Muhammad's cloak is kept and afterward to the tomb of Ahmad Shah in Qandahar. Sarwari and his entourage also participated in a meeting at Qandahar airport which was organized by officers and soldiers of the airport. Sarwari spoke about Amin's atrocities and his connection with imperialism. Sarwari and his party returned from Qandahar to Kabul today.

KABUL SPORTS STADIUM TO BE VENUE FOR 'FARMERS DAY' FESTIVAL

LD192116 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] For the purpose of accommodating and providing facilities for the respected citizens of Kabul, the ceremony of "Farmer's Day" together with the traditional festival of Nawroz [New Year: 21 March] and agricultural exhibitions will be held in the Kabul National Sports Stadium.

A source of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform has said: The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in the light of the new stage of the development of the Great Sawr Revolution, which placed respect for tradition and customs of the people at the head of its policy, has taken and is taking important steps concerning the observation of traditional and old customs.

Based on this super idea, the ceremony of the "Farmer's Day" together with the traditional festival of Nawroz, will be observed, with special grandeur, provided the weather is good, in the Kabul National Sports Stadium.

This ceremony, which will begin at 0900 on 21 March, will include a parade of agricultural equipment, artistic shows and numerous other recreational programs.

We invite the respected citizens of Kabul, toiling farmers and noble countrymen to respect the high position of the farmer by their participation and to see all the interesting programs of the day with a revolutionary order and discipline.

BANGLADESH

STRIKING EMPLOYEES URGED TO RETURN TO WORK

BK191716 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government has assured that adequate measures have been taken to insure the safety and protection of those employees who have joined their duties or are willing to do so. A press note issued in Dacca today said it has been observed that a (?majority of the) class three and class four striking government employees are willing to resume their duties immediately, but they are not doing so for fear that they might be harmed by the lawless elements. The government also noted with satisfaction that some of the striking employees had already resumed their duties.

The press note said the government appealed to all its employees that they should not allow [words indistinct] saboteurs and miscreants and other interested circles who are out to create confusion and disturb the smooth functioning of the administrative machinery. Other government employees continuing the strike have been [words indistinct] without futher delay.

Meanwhile, a government spokesman has described the 15-point demands of the striking class three and class four employees as completely unreasonable. He refuted the demands point by point, and said that these employees should join their duties immediately in their own interest.

Communist Party Leaders Arrested

BK191650 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dacca 19 Mar (AFP)--The pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has protested the arrest ofthree of its leaders in Dacca early this week and demanded their immediate release. The party organised a rally and procession to protest the arrest of Mr. Manzotrul Ahsan Khan, CPB's labour secretary, and tow others.

The government did not say anything about the arrest but it coincided with the beginning of the strike by over 500,000 non-gazetted low paid government employees throughout Bangladesh late last week. The strike continued for the sixth day today.

CPB Secretary General Mohammad Forhad told the rally yesterday that the government would not be able to stop his party's struggle to obtain food and shelter for ordinary people by arresting a few communist leaders. Mr. Forhad several weeks back had publicly said that his party would welcome an Afghan styled revolution in Bangladesh.

The statement came under severe attack from political leaders and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, who described the comment as seditious. But the prime minister said that the government had not taken any legal action on this because of its firm belief in freedom of expression and democracy. He said, however, that such political leaders having allegiance to foreign powers would be tried by the people and not by normal courts.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOROCCAN CONFERENCE 19 MAR

BK191313 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq returned to Dacca today from Marrakesh after attending the second session of the Jerusalem Fund Committee, an organization of the Islamic Conference.

Talking to newsmen at the airport the foreign minister described the 2-day session of the 14-member Jerusalem Fund Committee as successful and said that the committee decided to continue its efforts for a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem. He said that the committee has recommended the holding of a special session of the UN General Assembly as soon as possible to discuss the questions of Palestine and Jerusalem.

INDIA

GANDHI SUPPORTS INDEPENDENT, NONALINED AFGHANISTAN

BK201032 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has expressed the hope that Afghanistan will become an independent and nonalined country free of foreign intervention. In an interview with a Japanese daily she said India is opposed to outside intervention in any country. She said she is against the stationing of foreign troops in the countries. Mrs Gandhi said all countries should restrain the increase in political and military confrontations.

RAO URGES U.S. NOT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN

BK200922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India has urged the United States to desist from supplying arms to Pakistan. This was stated by external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, at question time in the Lok Sabha today. He said it has been India's experience that arms supplied to Pakistan have been used against her. India is also in touch with other countries which may be in the process of supplying arms to Pakistan. It is being impressed upon them not to go ahead with the supply.

Mr Rao told the house that the United States has assured India that the supply is a normal one and will not be directed against India. However, such assurances have been given in the past but these had been violated, Mr Rao added.

Additional Comments

BK200924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP)--India has been trying to dissuade the United States and other concerned governments from making large-scale arms supplies to Pakistan following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told the lower house of Parliament today. Mr Rao, who held talks with U.S. officials in New York recently, said India had information that the proposed U.S. arms supplies were worth $400 million. He did not name the other concerned governments but indicated, replying to questions, that they included Saudi Arabia and France.

The minister said, "We have been trying to impress on them the need not to go ahead with the supplies." Mr Rao said the U.S. had assured India that the arms supply to Pakistan was not massive, was only in the nature of normal supplies and in any case would not be directed against India. He added that this assurance was one "which has been given time and again in the past and has been violated."

Mr Rao also referred to India's efforts to convince Pakistan of the "undesirability" of arming itself. Pakistan was told that to do so "would only add to tension in the area and would not solve any problem," he added.

China, in response to India's concern expressed in January on the reported increased Chinese arms supplies to Pakistan, has informed that its arms assistance to Pakistan was not directed against this country. Mr Rao, who said this in a written answer in the house, further said that China has also expressed the hope that India-Pakistan and India-China relations would improve.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said that the government had seen reports of the statement of Agha Shahi, Pakistan foreign affairs adviser, on the Chinese military supplies. He was asked whether the statement could be taken to mean that the supplies "would continue at least at the present level with every possibility of increase, resources permitting." He said: "...the implications of the statement is a matter on which the government would reserve its position."

ARBITRATION MAY BE SOUGHT IF U.S. URANIUM UNDELIVERED

BK200731 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Mar (AFP)--India has told the United States that if Washington does not honour the agreement under which India is to get 40 tons of enriched uranium for its Tarapore nuclear plant, New Delhi may seek an arbitration, the independent national daily TIMES OF INDIA said today.

In an exclusive report TIMES said: "...India has taken the position that there is nothing to bar the U.S. Government, including its domestic laws, to approve the pending shipment of nearly 40 tons of enriched uranium to India".

TIMES said that the Indian stand was conveyed to the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Robert Goheen by the Indian Secretary of State Mr. Eric Gonsalves and called it "a definite Indian formulation on this vexed issue worked out in the light of the policy of the new government."

TIMES quoted reports from Washington and said that the State Department would seek fresh assurance from India following Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's recent statement in the Indian Parliament. Mrs. Gandhi told the Parliament on March 13 that while India remained committed to peaceful use of nuclear energy she would not hesitate to carry out nuclear explosions or implosions "in the national interest".

TIMES said "while contingency preparations are on to overcome the crisis in case the United States presists in its obduracy, there are indications that India might seek, as an extreme case, arbitration for which there is provision in the bilateral agreement".

Quoting competent sources TIMES said "although India would like to ensure supply of enriched uranium from the United States, if the supply is stopped India would be free to take an appropriate decision to make alternative arrangements for the fuel....One option is to buy uranium from other sources and the other is to develop a substitute".

TIMES said that the next step on this "contentious issue" would not largely be determined by the U.S. response to the Indian stand.

The Indian order for the supply of enriched uranium was placed with the U.S. Government well in advance of the March 10 deadline which under the 1978 U.S. Nuclear-Proliferation Act, bars further nuclear assistance to countries which neither sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty nor permit international inspection of all their nuclear facilities.

MP Challenges Goheen's Statement

BK191556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha today, Congress-U member Mr N.P. Nanda demanded that the government should ask U.S. Ambassador in India Mr Robert Goheen to explain his reported statement in Calcutta on the nuclear fuel supply by the United States to the Tarapore atomic power plant.

Raising the issue as a special mention, Mr Nanda said Mr Goheen had stated that the supply of fuel by his country was finalized, but his country had to consider its delivery in view of the recent statement of Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in Parliament on India's nuclear policy.

FOREIGN MINISTER RAO REITERATES POSITION ON INDO-PRC BOUNDARY

BK201030 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Mr Narasimha Rao has reiterated the government's stand that the Sino-Indian boundary has support in tradition and custom and in the exercise of administrative jurisdiction. In most of its parts the boundary has the sanction of specific international agreements. He said this in the lower house of Parliament today in reply to a question about China's claim that the borders have not been delimited.

MP'S URGE RECOGNITION OF DALAI LAMA'S GOVERNMENT

BK180911 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Mar (AFP)--Thirty-two members of the Indian Parliament have urged Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi to recognise the Tibetan Government in exile as "de facto and de jure government of Tibet," a press statement issued by the Tibetan Youth Congress--the militant youth wing of the Tibetan refugees here said today.

A majority of the signatories belong to Mrs Gandhi's ruling Congress-I Party.

The request came in the wake of reports that the new Chinese leadership have told the 44-year-old temporal leader of the Tibetans--the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet where he will (?assured) of a decent living and limited religious powers.

The Chinese stand was conveyed to the Dalai Lama, who runs his government in exile from Dharamsala, north India, through a five-member high level Tibetan refugee team which toured Tibet for three months and returned to India (?last) December.

The delegation consisted of prime minister of Salai Lama's seven-member "Kashag" (cabinet), his elder brother and a former deputy chairman of commission of Tibetan people's deputies (parliament).

Since the return of the team and their contradicting reports on the situation in Tibet, a section of the young Tibetan refugees had been voicing protests against any possible move by the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet. Today's appeal to Mrs Gandhi is part of the campaign, well informed Tibetan sources said.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 in the wake of "Chinese occupation" of Tibet, set up his government in exile in 1962 after framing a new constitution.

The Indian Government does not officially recognise the government, but exchanges letters on official pads bearing the seal of the Dalai Lama and that of the Indian Government.

PARLIAMENT DEBATES ASSAM SITUATION 19 MAR

BK190807 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is against any step which will increase the tension in Assam. Mrs Gandhi was intervening during question-hour in the Lok Sabha today. She said the government does not have full information on the move of the West Bengal unit of the Congress-I to block all routes to Assam. However, nothing will be done to aggravate the situation in the state.

In reply to a supplementary, Home Minister Zail Singh termed as baseless a report that the government will yield to foreign pressure while deciding the cut-off date for foreign nationals in Assam. He said no foreign interference will be tolerated whatsoever.

Earlier, replying to the original question minister of state for home affairs, Yogendra Makwana, enumerated the steps taken to strengthen the border with Bangladesh. He said the government is vigilant about the Assam situation. Negotiations have taken place both with the political parties and students. They are still continuing and it is difficult to say how soon a solution can be found.

Protest of Assam Movement

BK200352 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Calcutta, the police made a lathi [baton] charge and used teargas to disperse Youth Congress-I and Chatra Parishad [student wing of the Congress-I] supporting demonstrators who raided the office of the Assam TRIBUNE yesterday. The demonstrators were protesting against the movement launched in Assam.

Condemning the demonstration, Chief Minister Jyoti Basu said while the government will allow peaceful agitations any agitation that disrupts normal life will not be tolerated.

The chairman of the West Bengal Youth Congress-I, Biren Mohanty, protested against the police action and said the police made an unprovoked attack on the demonstrators who, he said, were peaceful.

Communist Leader Opposes Blockade

BK200354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0242 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The communist party of India-Marxist leader Nambdodirapad has said that the move by the West Bengal Youth Congress-I for a blockade of Assam poses a threat to national unity and will cause harm to the entire country. He was talking to the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA in New Delhi.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE UNCOVERS SPY RING IN ARMY, NAVY HEADQUARTERS

BK151021 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 15 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Mar (AFP)--The Indian counterintelligence department has busted a foreign spy ring operating in the army and naval headquarters here.

Two Indian operatives, Mr. Ami Chand and Mr. Tara Chand, who were arrested on February 19 were produced before a local court here for remand.

Mr. Tara Chand, an office boy working in the army headquarters was charged with passing classified military documents to the Pakistan Embassy. Mr. Chand has admitted his guilt, the court was told.

The other accused, Mr. Ami Chand, also working as office boy in the directorate of army engineers was charged with supplying military documents to intelligence officers of a foreign mission.

The prosecution refused to name the mission pleading that it would affect the investigation.

JUDGE ACQUITS SANJAY GANDHI IN POLEMICS CASE

BK171244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Special Judge D.C. Agarwal today discharged Sanjay Gandhi and R.C. Singh in the polemics case.

In his judgement Mr Agarwal observed that accusations against them lacked reasonable ground to expect a conviction and as such can be regarded as groundless.

SHEIKH ABDULLAH CHARGES CONGRESS-I ATTEMPTS TO TOPPLE GOVERNMENT

BK190406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, said in the state assembly yesterday that the Congress-I is trying to topple his government in the state. He was replying to the demand by the Congress-I members for initiating negotiations with the striking road transport corporation employees union. The sheikh accused the Congress-I of trying to take political advantage of the strike.

General secretary of the state Congress-I, Mr Mangat Ram Sharma, defended his party's support to the road transport corporation employees and said his party wants Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to continue as chief minister.

Congress-I Leader Denial

BK200424 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [state] Congress-I General Secretary Mangat Ram Sharma has denied Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's charge in the assembly that the Congress-I leaders of the state are conspiring for the government's removal. Sharma told UNITED NEWS OF INDIA in Jammu there is not such move.

OFFICIALS SAY HINDU LEADERS IN BANGLADESH MURDERED

BK200355 Hong Kong AFP in English 1725 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Calcutta, 19 Mar (AFP)--At least eight important Hindu leaders in Bangladesh have been murdered recently, the Indian West Bengal State Government said here today. Officials in the leftist-controlled government here indicated that the incidents were part of a plan by the Bangladesh National Party and the Moslem League to intimidate the Hindus with the ultimate aim of neutralising the latter's role in coming elections.

The names of the eight killed were released here today by the Government of West Bengal bordering Bangladesh. The victims were identified as Sunirmal Singha Chaudhury of Dacca, Sangjib Basu of Barisal, Amelesh Ghosh of Faridupur, Shibu Bhowmick of Comilla, Kamalesh Sarkar of Khulna, Bharat Chandra Das of Bhola, B. Kosta of Dacca and Manas Ghos of Khulna.

The officials here said that the atrocities on Hindus had figured in Bangladesh Parliament, with some of the deputies demanding steps to allay the misgivings among the minority community. The "concerted attack" had caused great consternation among the Hindus, the officials said.

ENERGY MINISTER ATTACKED BY MOB, ESCAPES UNHARMED

BK200356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Union Energy Minister Ghani Khan Chaudhury escaped unhurt when a mob hurled brickbats on his car while he was returning from Dhanbad. He was on a visit to (Nitsa) Colliery where eight persons were killed and thirty-six injured in an explosion on Saturday. Chaudhury later told the All India Radio's Asansol correspondent that illegal mining and lawlessness in the area are responsible for such incidents. The minister disclosed that suitable legislation will be enacted to prevent illegal and private mining. A separate protection force for the coal industry would be raised soon, he added.

Chaudhury agreed in principle to locate thermal power plants in the coal belts to avoid a transport bottleneck.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI NOTES HAQ'S VIEW OF FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

BK191435 Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0215 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Before departing from Lahore [on 18 March] after a brief visit, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq told newsmen that progress toward giving the administration a greater civilian character would become manifest in the due course of time.

When asked if the proposal for a revival of the senate had been dropped, the president said that he is waiting for a legal opinion on it.

Asked if the offices of the chief martial law administrator and the president would be separated, he replied: Not yet, because I have taken up the responsibility of the chief martial law administrator by being the chief of army staff. So legally I cannot give up this position unless we have some total overall arrangement.

Precensorship To Be Lifted

BK200405 Hong Kong AFP in English 0053 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 19 Mar (AFP)--The government has agreed in principle to withdraw precensorship restrictions imposed on newspapers and press courts will be set up in the country to oversee the implementation of a code of ethics for working journalists, information secretary, Major General Mujeebur Rahman, said today. He told newsmen in Faisalabad, 250 miles southeast of here, that the code of ethics being prepared in consultation with the local newspaper editors was in the final stages. All punitive clauses in existing press and publications laws would be repealed and the press courts or benches would act as neutral bodies to fix responsibility for violations, he said.

The precensorship restrictions were imposed October 16 when publication of about half a dozen newspapers and journals was banned.

The press courts are to comprise journalists, citizens and government representatives. The government is to stop publication of dummy newspapers being run for commercial purposes only.

PRC MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES KARACHI 19 MAR

BK200545 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Chinese good will military delegation led by Vice Defense Minister Xiao Ke left Karachi last night for home at the end of a 6-day official visit to Pakistan.

DAWN SUPPORTS HAQ'S STAND ON SECURITY, NONALINEMENT

BK190129 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 80 p 7 BK

[Editorial: "Security and Non-Alignment"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq's statement in Lahore the other day reaffirming that the "main direction" of Pakistan's foreign policy is to maintain its nonaligned status is as timely as it is reassuring. Coming at a time when Islamabad has rejected the U.S. offer of $400 million economic and military aid and a European diplomatic initiative on Afghanistan appears to be in the offing, President Zia's pronouncement should help to place the regional equations in a clear perspective. In view of the parallelism in Pakistan's and the United States' perceptions of the Afghan crisis and President Carter's move to enlist support in the region against Soviet military intervention, a concerted response from Washington and Islamabad was not ruled out. But it is significant that, despite this similarity in Pakistan-American views and Islamabad's move to strengthen its security with U.S. assistance, there has been a continuing concern in Pakistan about not compromising the country's non-aligned status. It need hardly be emphasised too much that this country's nonalignment is dictated by its geopolitical compulsions as well as by its experience of diplomatic relations. The vicissitudes of international politics and big power rivalries have left Pakistan in no doubt that the cause of its security is best served by scrupulous avoidance of overinvolvement with either of the super-powers. When Islamabad decided to participate in the Havana non-aligned summit it was as a matter of calculated and premeditated long-term policy and not in a fit of forgetfulness. The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan has not eliminated the need for Pakistan to maintain its non-aligned position.

The Afghan crisis has at the same time underlined this country's vulnerability in terms of security and defence. Hence, it is but logical that Pakistan should have endeavoured to strengthen itself militarily, economically and politically by mobilising diplomatic support for its position on the Afghan situation in various international forums and by seeking military assistance from diverse sources. Admittedly, any move to procure arms from the United States and other powers by itself does not compromise Pakistan's non-aligned status, especially if it is recalled that many leading members of the non-aligned movement have at different times requested for, and received military assistance from one or the other superpower. Obviously, the terms and conditions on which such aid is extended, whatever its quantum, form the crucial determining factor. Thus, supplies of military equipment accompanied by entangling commitments designed to align a small country with a superpower should not be acceptable within the framework of nonalignment. Pakistan's rejection of the American offer is to be attributed not to the quantum of aid involved, as pointed out by General Zia, but to the terms attached to it which have profound implications for the country's nonalignment.

It might be pointed out that immediately after the Soviet forces marched into Afghanistan and President Carter made known his administration's interest in strengthening Pakistan's security, Islamabad sought clarifications regarding the terms and quantum of the aid to be extended. From Mr. Agha Shahi's policy statement at the local bodies' convention, it appears that the American offer has been rejected since it was "directly or by implication wrapped up in onerous conditions." Mr. Shahi has also disclosed that the U.S. offer, unless substantially modified, would have "detracted from rather than enhanced our security." Faced with a choice between American military assistance and nonalignment, Pakistan has rightly opted for the latter. Our experience of the close alignment of the fifties and the unfortunate repercussions it had on our relations with our neighbours and other third world countries should hardly leave us in two minds as to which will be the wiser course for us to adopt. But it might be pointed out here that American perception of Pakistan's security provided us with two options. The first was that of a close and formal alignment between the two countries with Washington underwriting Islamabad's defence in return for firm commitments. The second was that of the United States expressing categorically its interest in the security and sovereignty of Pakistan. This would, however, entail a clear-cut recognition of, and respect for, Pakistan's non-alignment. A case in point is the United States' interest in the independence of Yugoslavia which does not involve any entangling alignments. With the rejection of the first option, which would have been "fraught with the danger of curtailment of our independence and sovereignty," to use Mr Agha Shahi's words, the second option needs to be explored, since the present situation by no means favours a downgrading of Pakistan-American relations.

BRIEFS

AFGHAN-USSR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT--Based on the good understanding and spirit of disinterested cooperation which prevails on the part of our friendly neighbor, the USSR, the Soviet Avtoeksport Company has agreed to provide as grant-in-aid the equipment required by the central workshop of the Ministry of Transport and Tourism, and a number of other workshops in Qonduz, Herat and Qandahar. It has also agreed to send a number of experts to Afghanistan to help in the installation, assembly and operation of these workshops. The agreement was signed in the presence of Sher Jan Mazduryar, the minister of transport and tourism, by the planning director of the Ministry of Transport and Tourism and an Evoteksport representative, and the relevant documents were exchanged. [Text] [Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 11 Mar 80 LD]